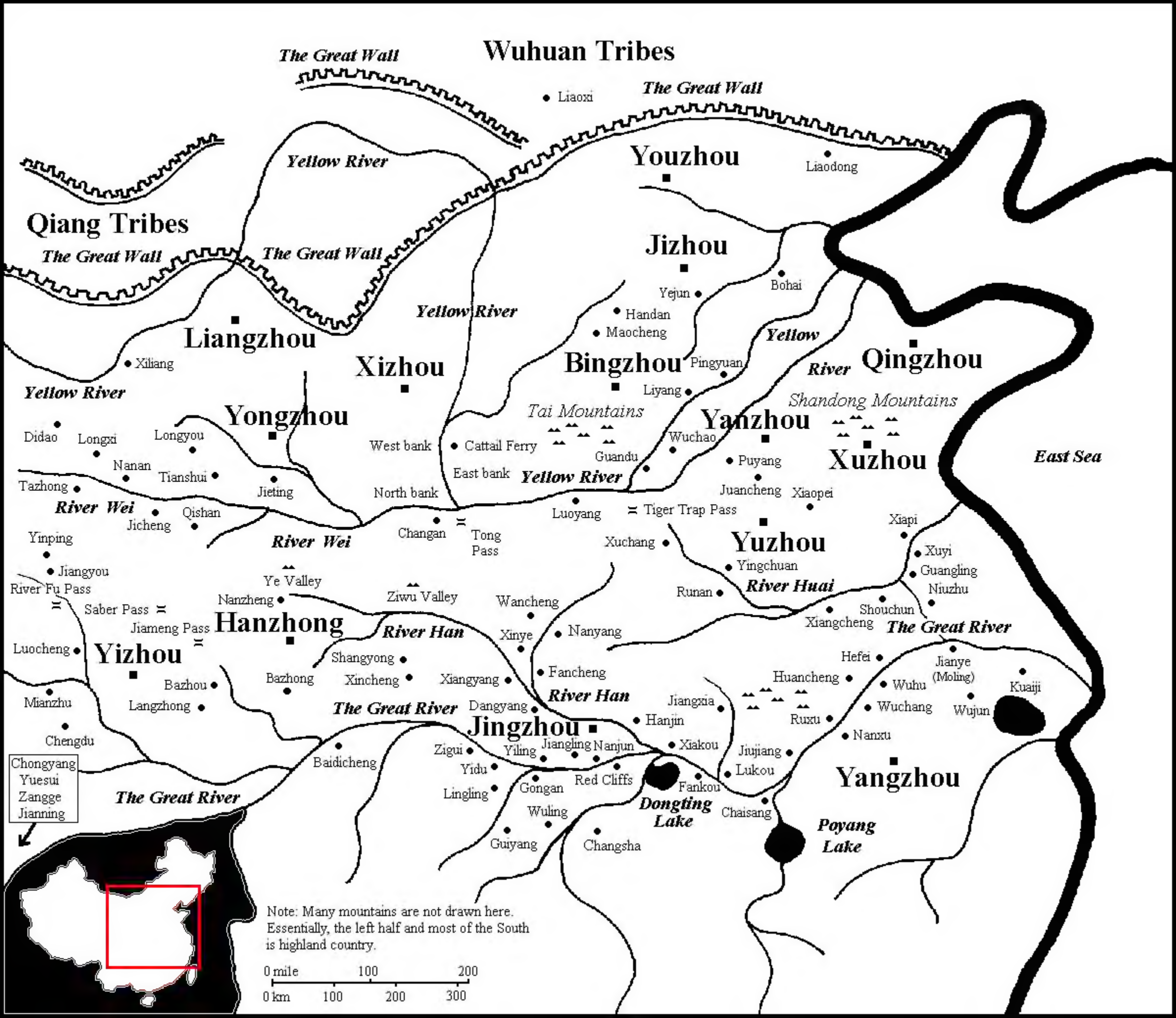
Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

三国志 ⑭

呂布の末路

横山光輝

希望コミックス54

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI
PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:

THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. AFTER RESCUING THE EMPEROR FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI, HE IS CURRENTLY THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN AND HAS CONTROL OVER THE IMPERIAL COURT.

CHEN DENG:

THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY THE SUBORDINATE TO TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU. EVER SINCE LU BU HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF XUZHOU, HE HAS SERVED LU BU BUT IN NAME ONLY. UNDER CAO CAO'S ORDERS, HE IS CURRENTLY PLOTTING LU BU'S DOWNFALL WITH HIS FATHER.

CHEN GUI:

FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO HAS SWORN FALSE ALLEGIANCE TO LU BU. HE IS CURRENTLY PLOTTING LU BU'S DOWNFALL WITH HIS SON .

CONSORT HE:

HE JIN'S YOUNGER SISTER. ORIGINALLY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED BY LI RU.

DIAN WEI:

CAO CAO'S FIERCE GENERAL RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "E LAI," A MIGHTY GENERAL WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU. HE WAS KILLED IN VOLUME 12 DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO AT WANCHENG.

DIAO CHAN:

A SLAVE GIRL BELONGING TO WANG YUN, BUT HE RAISED THE GIRL MORE OF AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. IN VOLUME 7, SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO. SHE KILLED HERSELF AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL IN VOLUME 8.

DONG CHENG:

A TRUSTED RETAINER OF EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 9, HE HELPS THE EMPEROR ESCAPE FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI.

DONG ZHUO:

GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZES CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATS HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. HE IS DEPICTED AS SADISTIC, CORRUPT, AND RUTHLESS TYRANT. HE WAS KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GONGSUN ZAN:

GOVERNOR OF BEIPING WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HE WAGED WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKED HIM AND KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER BUT HAS SINCE MADE PEACE WITH YUAN SHAO.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:

SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

HE JIN:

OLDER BROTHER OF CONSORT HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. HE ATTEMPTS TO THE TEN ATTENDANTS BUT IS DISSUADED BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER ASSASSINATED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

JIA XU:

THE CUNNING STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO ZHANG XIU. IN VOLUME 12, HE AND ZHANG XIU PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO.

LIU BEI XUANDE:

THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. HE IS A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. AS OF VOLUME 12, HE IS THE GOVERNOR OF XIAOPEI AND WORKING SECRETLY WITH THE CHEN FAMILY TO BRING DOWN LU BU.

LIU BIAO:

THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU WHO, ALONG WITH YUAN SHAO, TRIED TO KILL SUN JIAN TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL. HE SUCCESSFULLY THWARTED SUN JIAN'S ATTEMPTS TO TAKE JINGZHOU. HAS CURRENTLY JOINED HANDS WITH ZHANG XIU.

LU BU:

HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR IN THE LAND WHO RIDES ON THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE LAND, THE RED HARE. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU.

SUN JIAN:

BORN IN WU COMMANDERY AND WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO IN VOLUME 5. WHEN HE FOUND THE IMPERIAL SEAL, HIS ALLIES YUAN SHAO AND LIU BIAO ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIM TO RETRIEVE THE SEAL. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIED TO EXACT HIS REVENGE BY ATTACKING LIU BIAO BUT WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.

SUN CE:

ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. AFTER LENDING YUAN SHU THE IMPERIAL SEAL TO BORROW AN ARMY, HE SUCCESSFULLY CONQUERED THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS OF JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG.

SUN QUAN:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE.

TAISHI CI:

SUN CE'S TRUSTED GENERAL, FORMERLY LIU YAO'S SUBORDINATE BUT LATER SWITCHED SIDES TO BECOME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER HE WAS CAPTURED.

TEN ATTENDANTS:

A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:

AN OLD MAN WHO HOLDS THE POST OF MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL. HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY WHO INVADE CHANG'AN (UNSHOWN IN MANGA)

WEN CHOU:

HE AND YAN LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

YAN LIANG:

HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

XU CHU:

FORMERLY A PEASANT, HIS TALENTS WERE NOTICED BY CAO CAO WHO THEN TURNED HIM INTO ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES. HE IS NOW A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO.

YUAN SHAO:

ORIGINALLY AN ADVISOR TO HE JIN, HE LEFT THE CAPITAL AND BECAME THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI COMMANDERY WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO RULE OVER LUOYANG. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU.

YUAN SHU:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE HAS DECLARED HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY.

XIAHOU DUN:

ONE OF CAO CAO'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 13, HE LOSES HIS LEFT EYE TO AN ENEMY ARROW DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S FORCES.

XUN YU:

ONE OF CAO CAO'S MOST TALENTED ADVISORS.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:

A FIERCE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:

A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO BUT HE IS NOW UNDER GONGSUN ZAN'S SERVICE. HE WISHES TO BE LIU BEI'S RETAINER, HOWEVER.

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

PART 2: MINOR CHARACTERS

CAO HONG:

A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO WHO IS ALSO HIS COUSIN. HE SAVED CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH IN VOLUME 6.

CAO SONG:

CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE WAS KILLED BY ZHANG KAI, AN ESCORT SENT BY TAO QIAN, WHO WANTED TO STEAL HIS FORTUNES.

CHENG GONG:

A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH CAO CAO AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HE REGRETS HIS DECISION AFTER REALIZING CAO CAO'S CHARACTER. *IN THE ORIGINAL NOVEL, HE DEFECTS TO BECOME LU BU'S ADVISOR.

DING YUAN:

GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN. HE WAS KILLED BY LU BU.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:

FORMER EMPEROR LING'S MOTHER AND EMPEROR XIAN'S GRANDMOTHER. IN VOLUME 3, CONSORT HE ORDERED FOR HER DEATH IN ORDER TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S SEAT AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:

ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS.

GUO SI:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND LI JUE FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.

HUA XIONG:

ONE OF DONG ZHUO'S GENERALS. HE DEFEATED SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT WAS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU IN VOLUME 5.

JIANG QIN:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.

LADY FUYOU:

FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE ALL KILLED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

LI JUE:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND GUO SI FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.

LIU BIAN:

THE SON OF CONSORT HE AND WAS BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER EMPEROR LING'S DEATH. HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN. HE BECAME THE EMPEROR WHEN DONG ZHUO FORCIBLY DETHRONED HIS HALF-BROTHER LIU BIAN.

LIU YAO:

GOVERNOR OF YANGZHOU. HE STOLE THE LANDS OF DANYANG AWAY FROM SUN CE'S UNCLE, WU JIN. IN VOLUME 10, SUN CE SETS OUT TO RECLAIM HIS UNCLE'S LOST LANDS AND CONQUER THE REST OF YANGZHOU.

TAO QIAN:

THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY ANGERED CAO CAO WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLED CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.

ZHANG BAO:

ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

ZHANG JIAO:

LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHOU TAI:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.

ZHANG YING:

ONE OF LIU YAO'S GENERALS. HE WAS SENT TO DEFEND NIUZHU FROM SUN CE BUT WAS DEFEATED WHEN BANDITS (JIANG QIN AND ZHOU TAI) STAGED AN UPRISING FROM WITHIN.

ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:

THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG THAT ARE REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." SUN CE SOUGHT TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSITANCE BEFORE SETTING OUT ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER SOUTHEASTERN CHINA. AFTER SUN CE'S ADAMANT INSISTENCE, THEY FINALLY AGREED TO HELP HIM.

-MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE-

SANGOKUSHI

14

LU BU'S END

LU BU FENGXIAN

YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

SANGOKUSHI
(ROMANCE OF THE
THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志（さんごくし）

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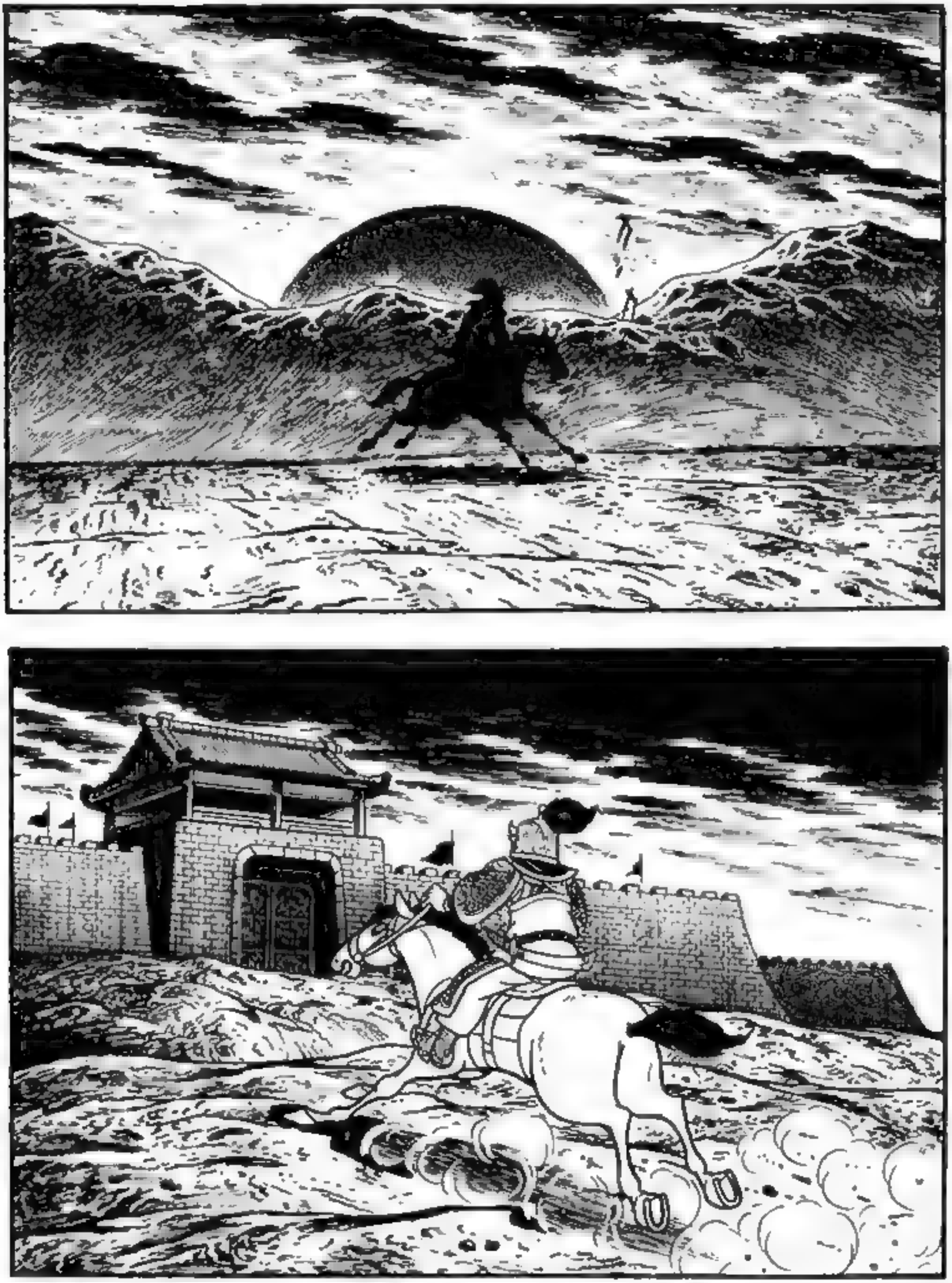
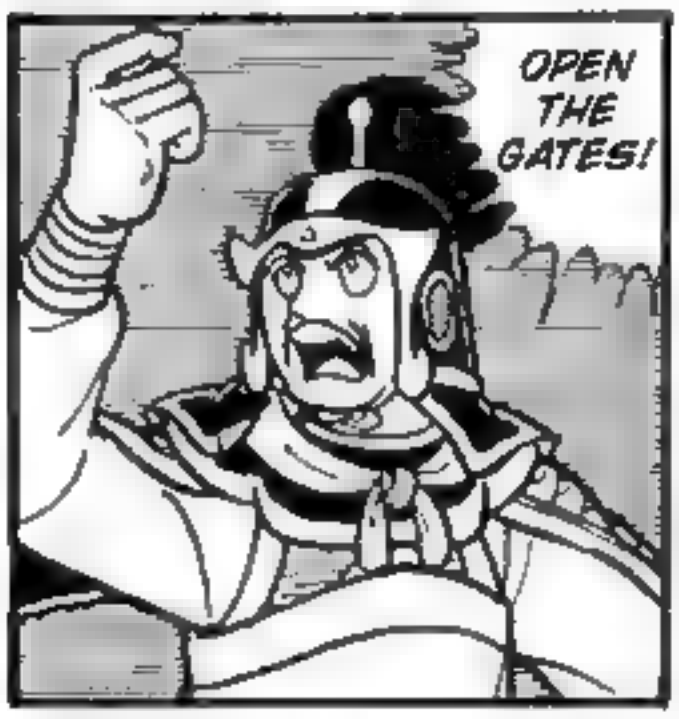
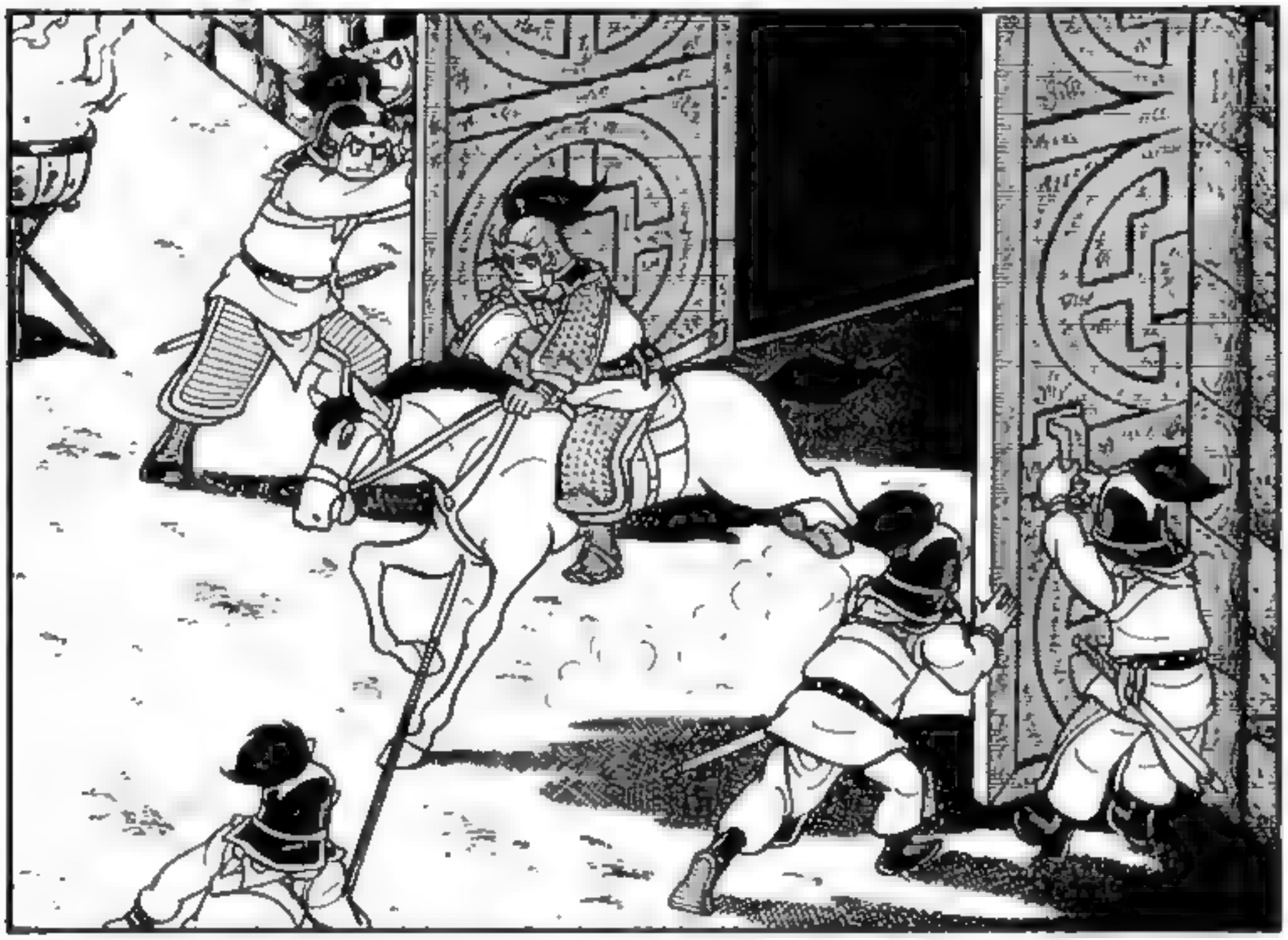
（月刊『希望の友』掲載）

THE AUTUMN WINDS




OPEN THE GATES!

OPEN THE GATES! I AM CHEN DENG, SENT HERE ON LU BU'S ORDERS!



CHEN GONG, I HAVE A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY TO REPORT.
AH, CHEN DENG. WHAT IS IT AT THIS HOUR?

OUR LORD ORDERS YOU TO WITHDRAW FROM XIAO PASS AND HEAD OVER TO XUZHOU CASTLE IMMEDIATELY.

CAO CAO'S ARMY HAS FOUND ANOTHER WAY TO XUZHOU CASTLE AND IS QUICKLY HEADING THERE AS WE SPEAK.

YES, WE HAVE NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE. WE MUST REGROUP OUR ENTIRE FORCES BACK AT XUZHOU CASTLE AT ONCE.

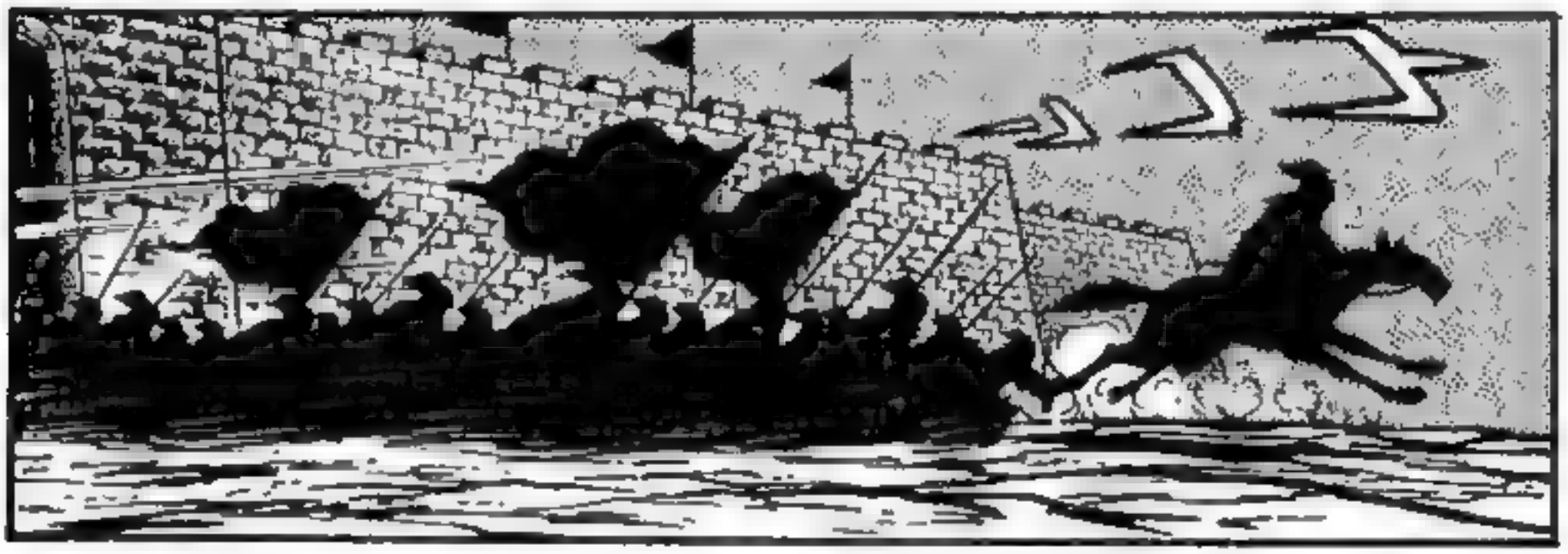
WHAT!? CAO CAO'S FORCES HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY TO XUZHOU!?

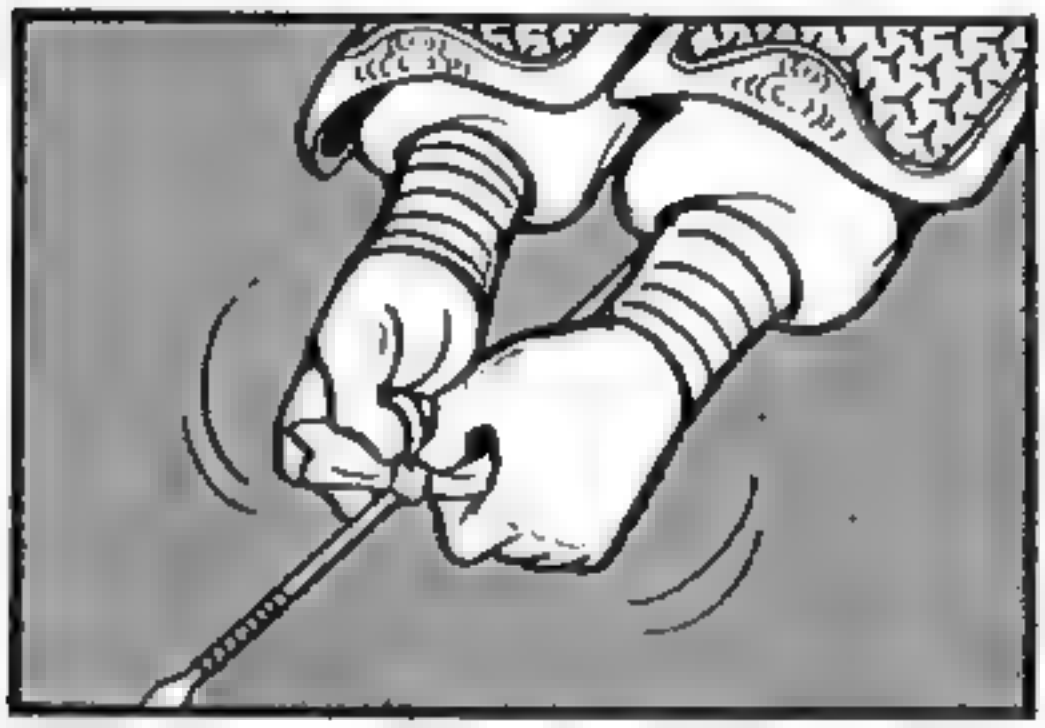
THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

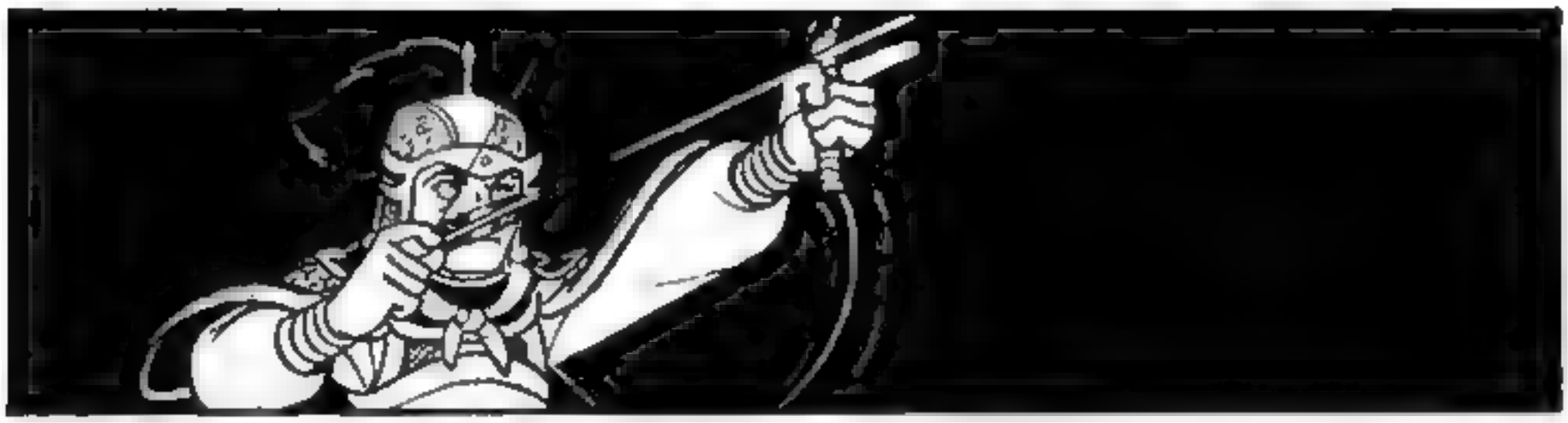
IF XUZHOU IS IN DANGER, THEN WE CANNOT JUST WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE.

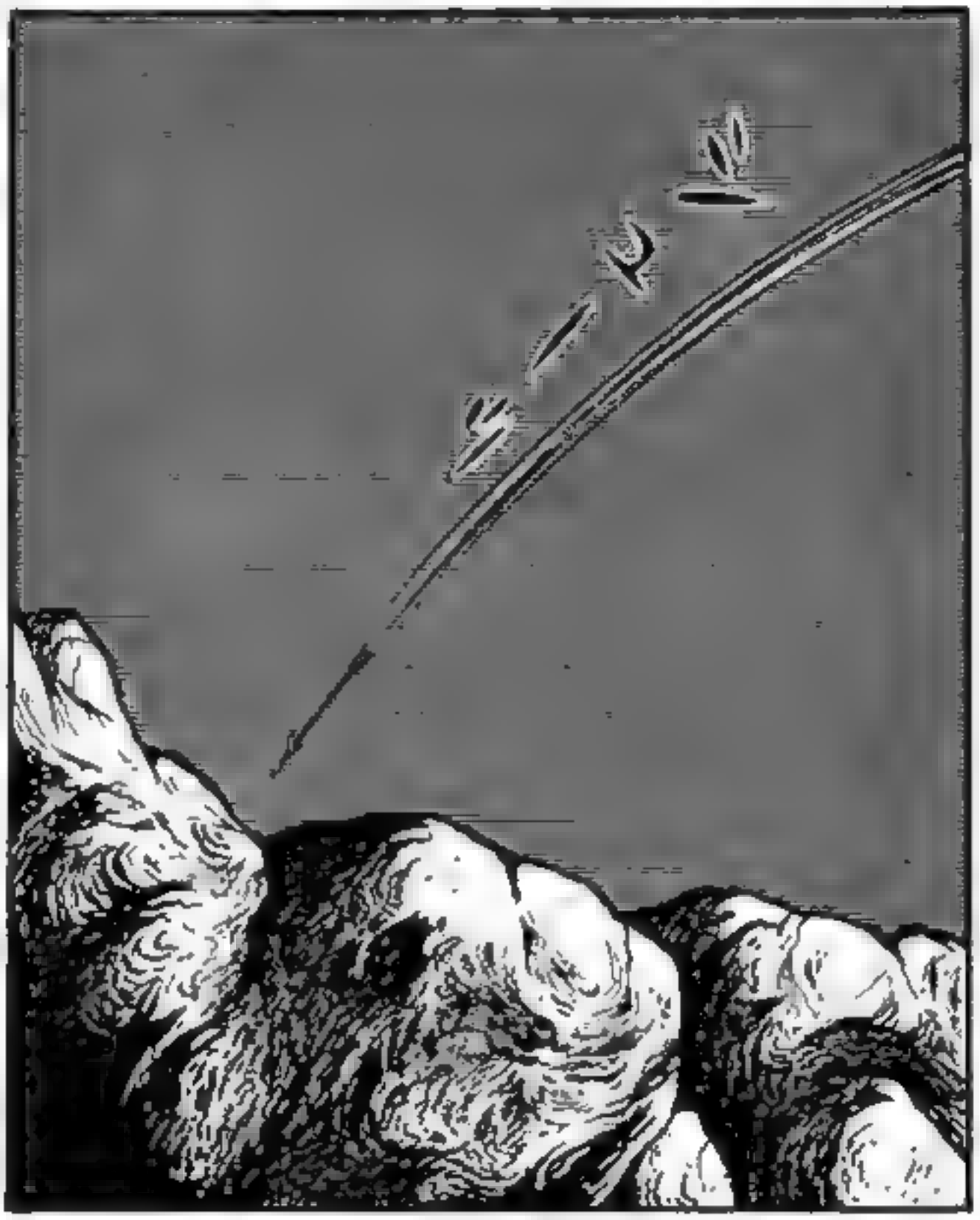
SO CAO CAO HAS CHANGED HIS BATTLE PLAN, I SEE...

ALL UNITS, MARCH ONWARDS TO XUZHOU!

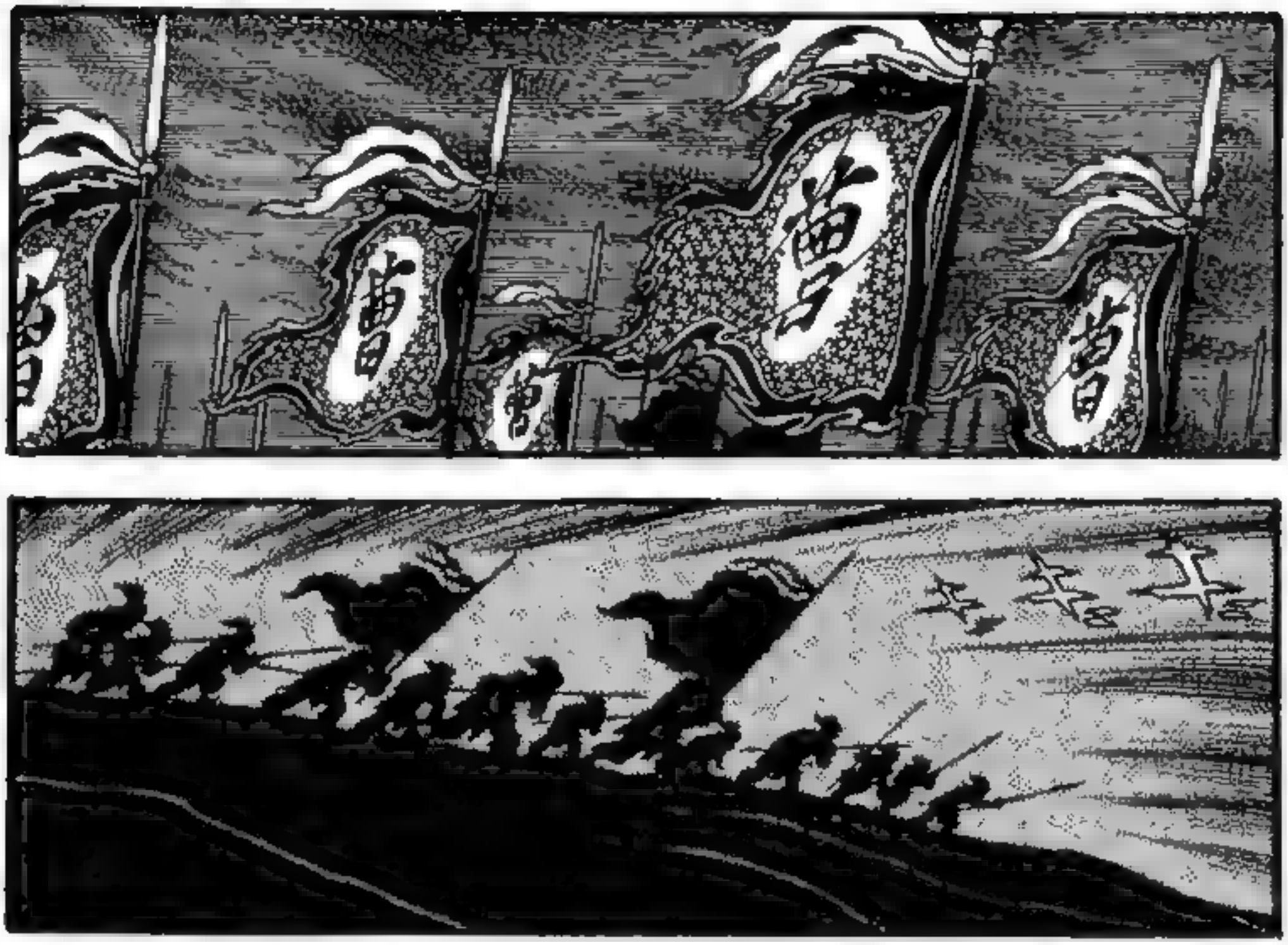


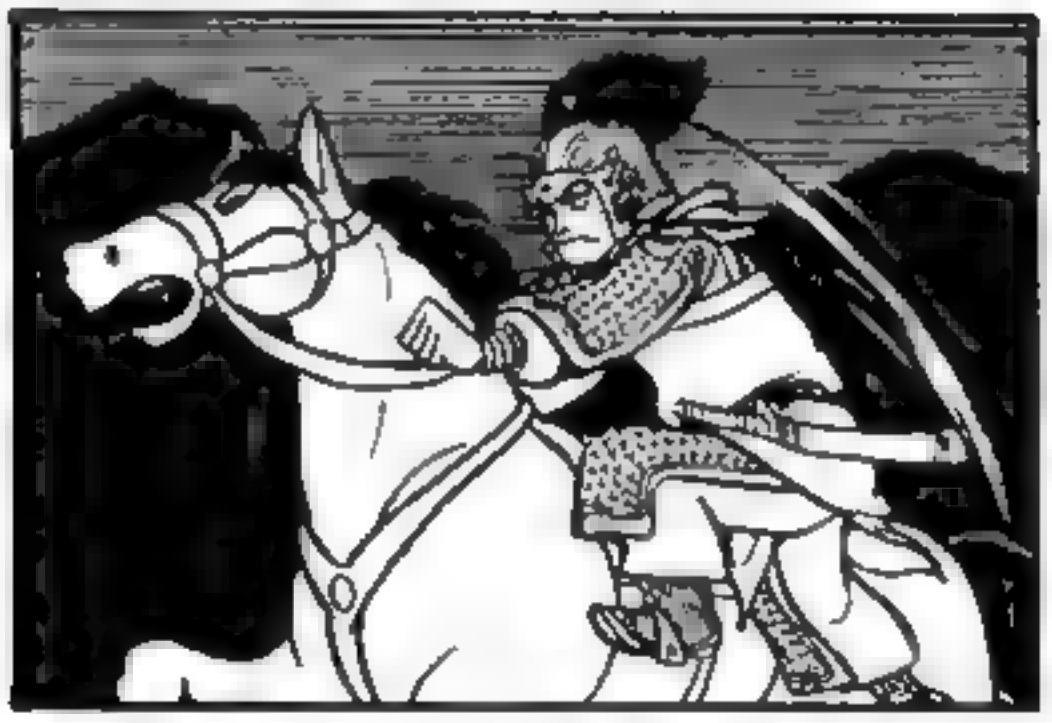




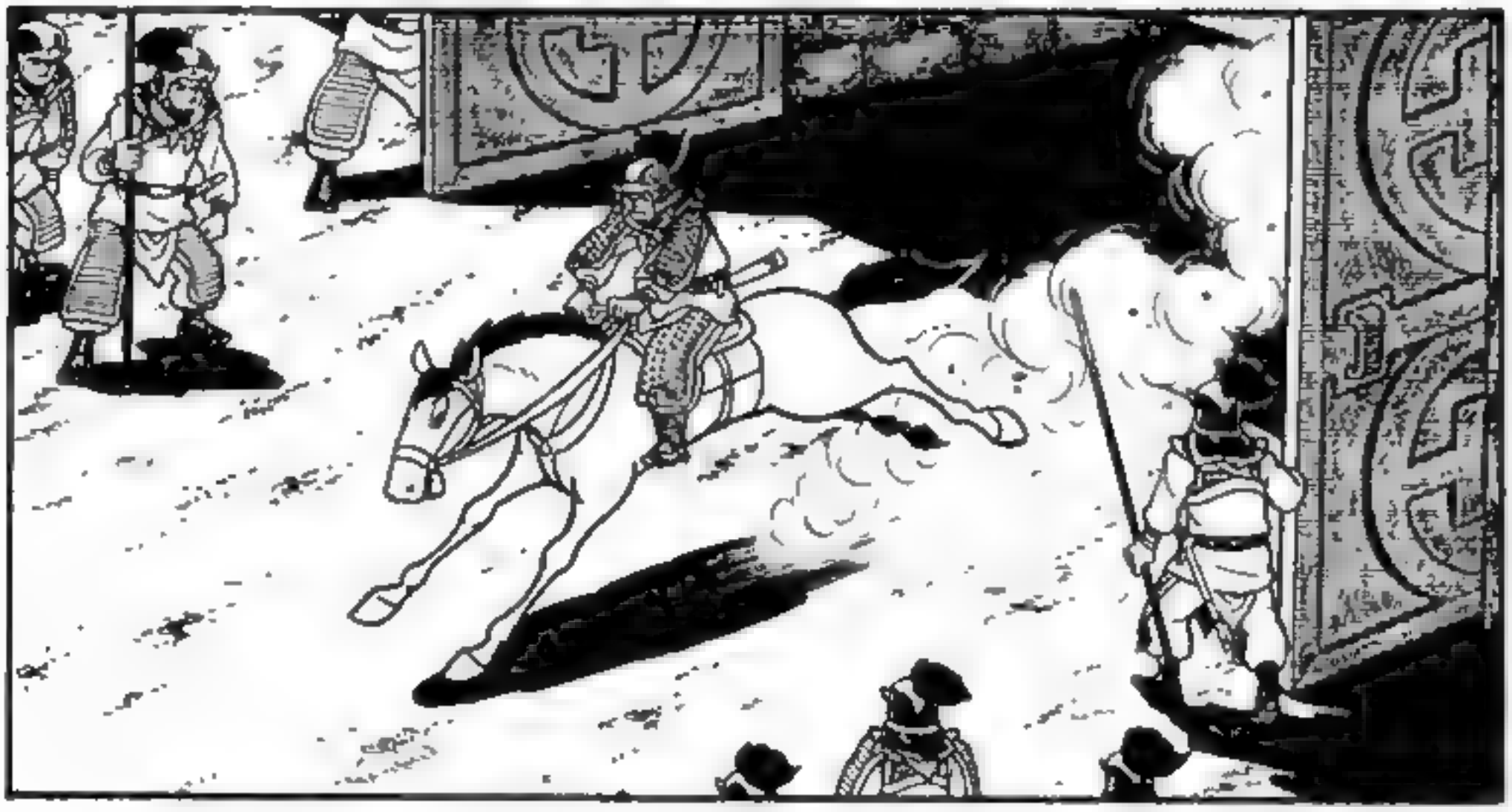


*FLAGS (曹) READ CAO CAO



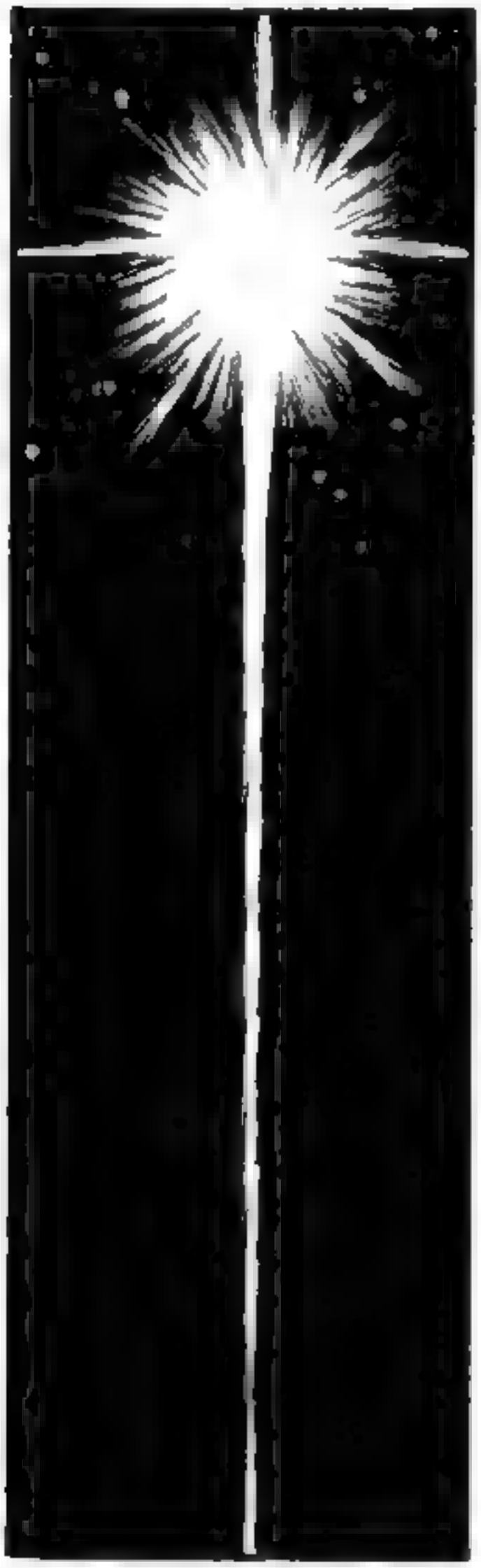


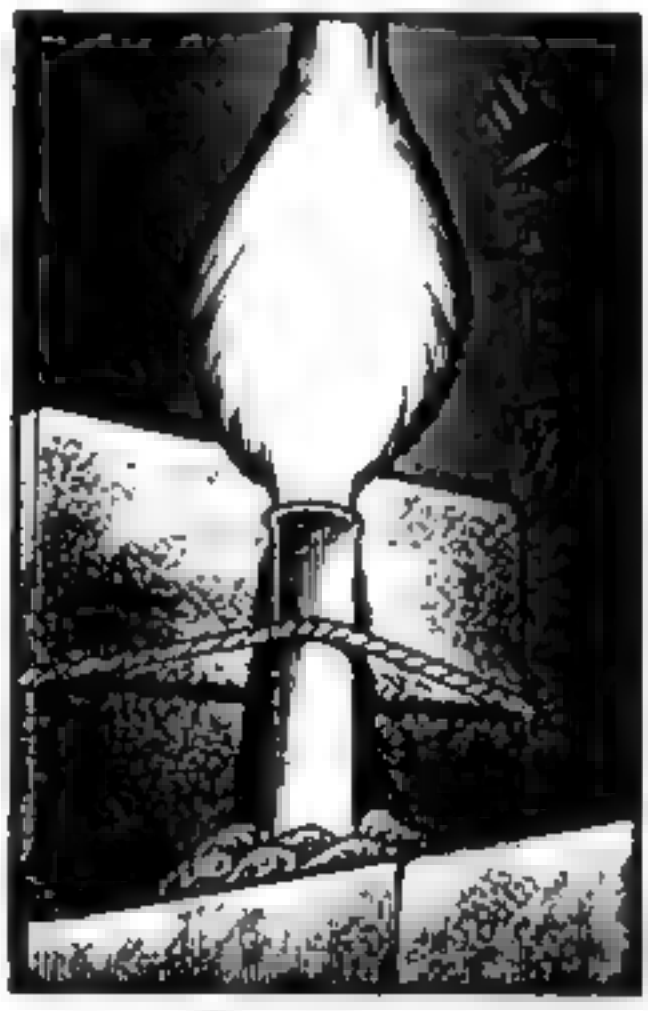
HAHA...



TIME TO LURE IN LU BU.

YES...
THE PLAN WENT MORE SMOOTHLY THAN I THOUGHT.





THE TRAITORS SHOULD BE DEEP ASLEEP ABOUT NOW...

YES.
IT'S CHEN DENG'S SIGNAL, MY LORD.

ALRIGHT, MEN! LET US CHARGE IN AND TEACH WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DARE BETRAY ME!

HMM!?

THEY MUST BE CAO CAO'S FORCES! WE SHALL CHARGE IN TO ATTACK!

YES...

SIR, AN ARMY HAS APPEARED IN FRONT OF US!

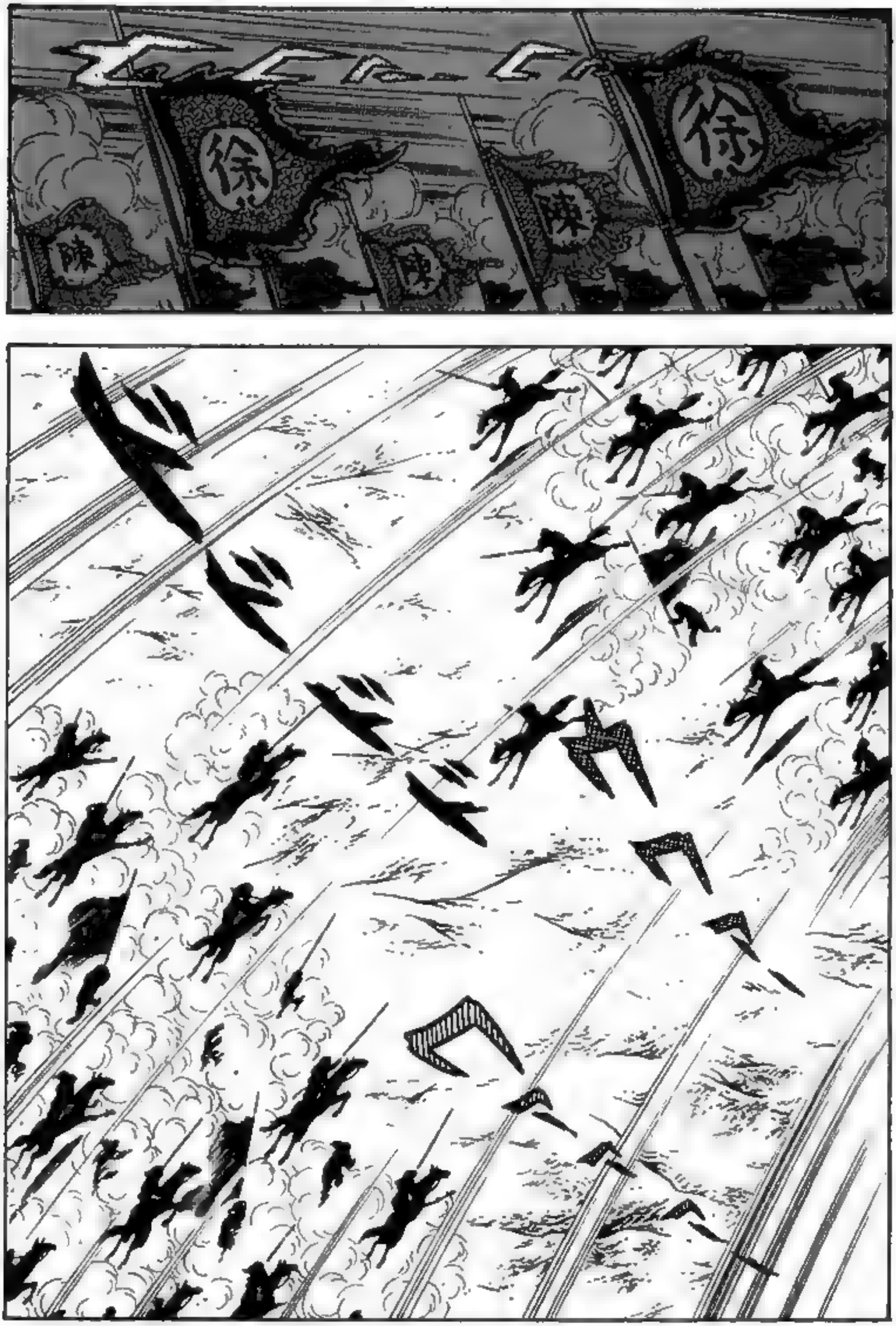
AHH!

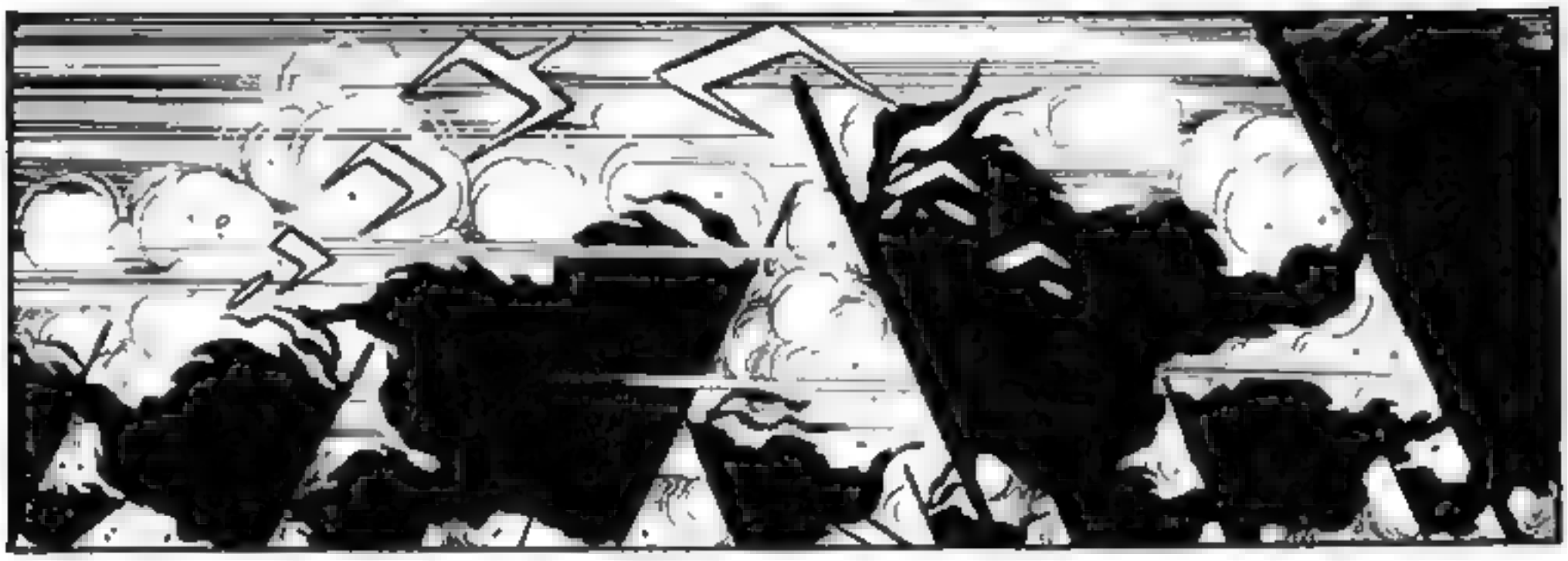
CHEN GONG, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN ARMY CHARGING TOWARDS US FROM THE FRONT!

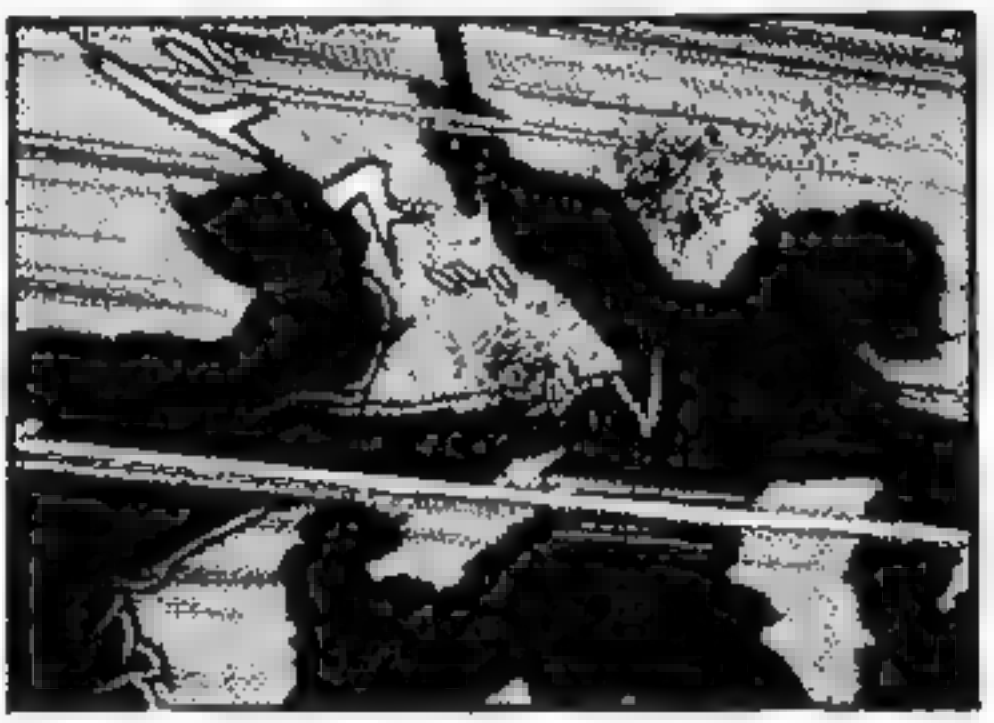
ATTACK!

THEY MUST BE CAO CAO'S FORCES TRYING TO PREVENT REINFORCEMENTS FROM REACHING XUZHOU.

*FLAGS (徐) READ XUZHOU







徐

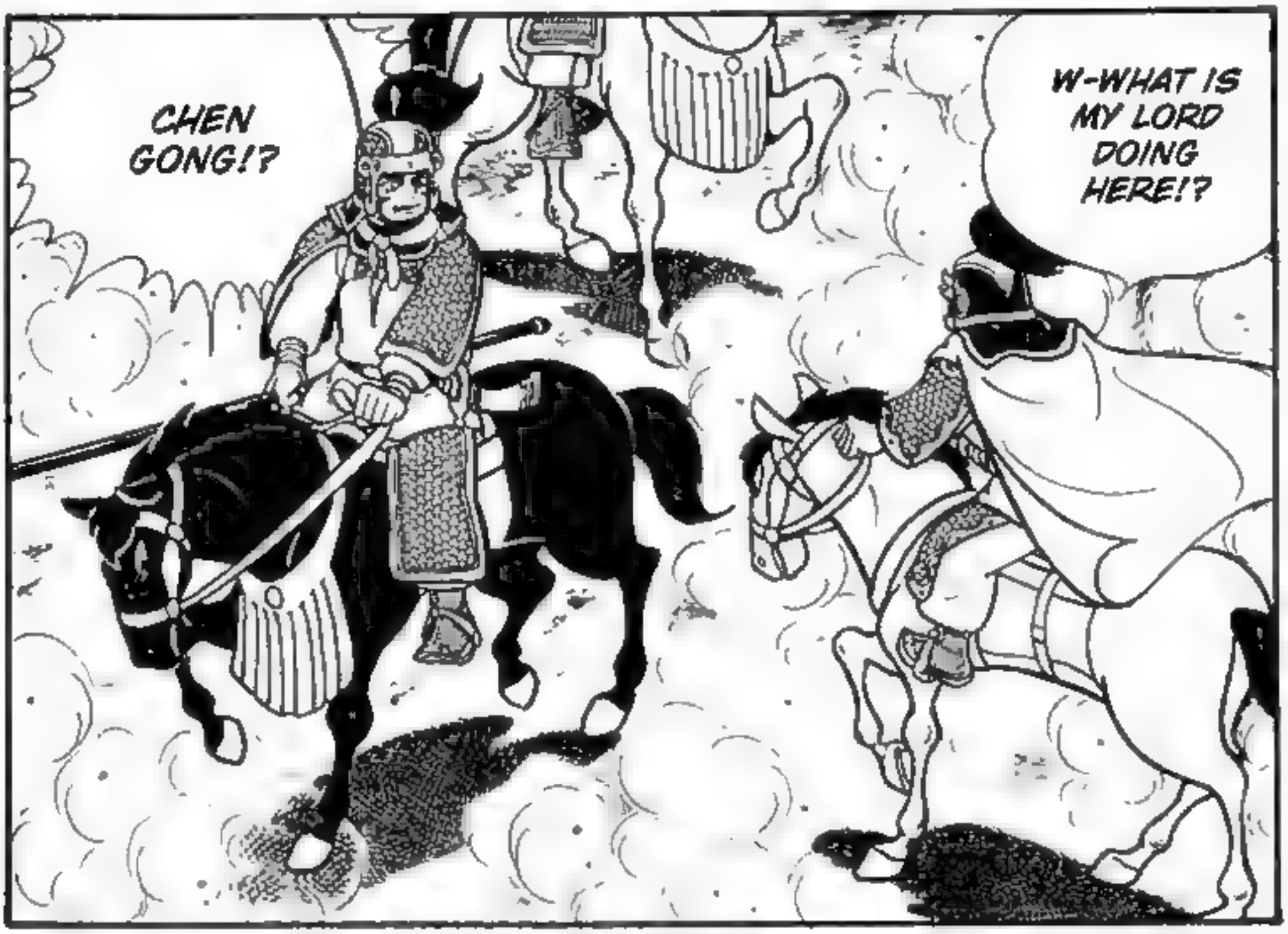
WHAT!?

SOME-
THING IS
DEFINITELY
A LITTLE
OFF...!

AH, IT
IS!!!

WHY THAT'S...
THE FLAG OF
XUZHOU!

HALT! I AM LU BU AND
THIS IS MY ARMY!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU
SOLDIERS ON!? REVEAL
YOURSELVES!


CHEN GONG!?
W-WHAT IS MY LORD DOING HERE!?

WHAT!?

WE WERE HEADING STRAIGHT BACK TO XUZHOU ON SIR'S ORDERS. HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

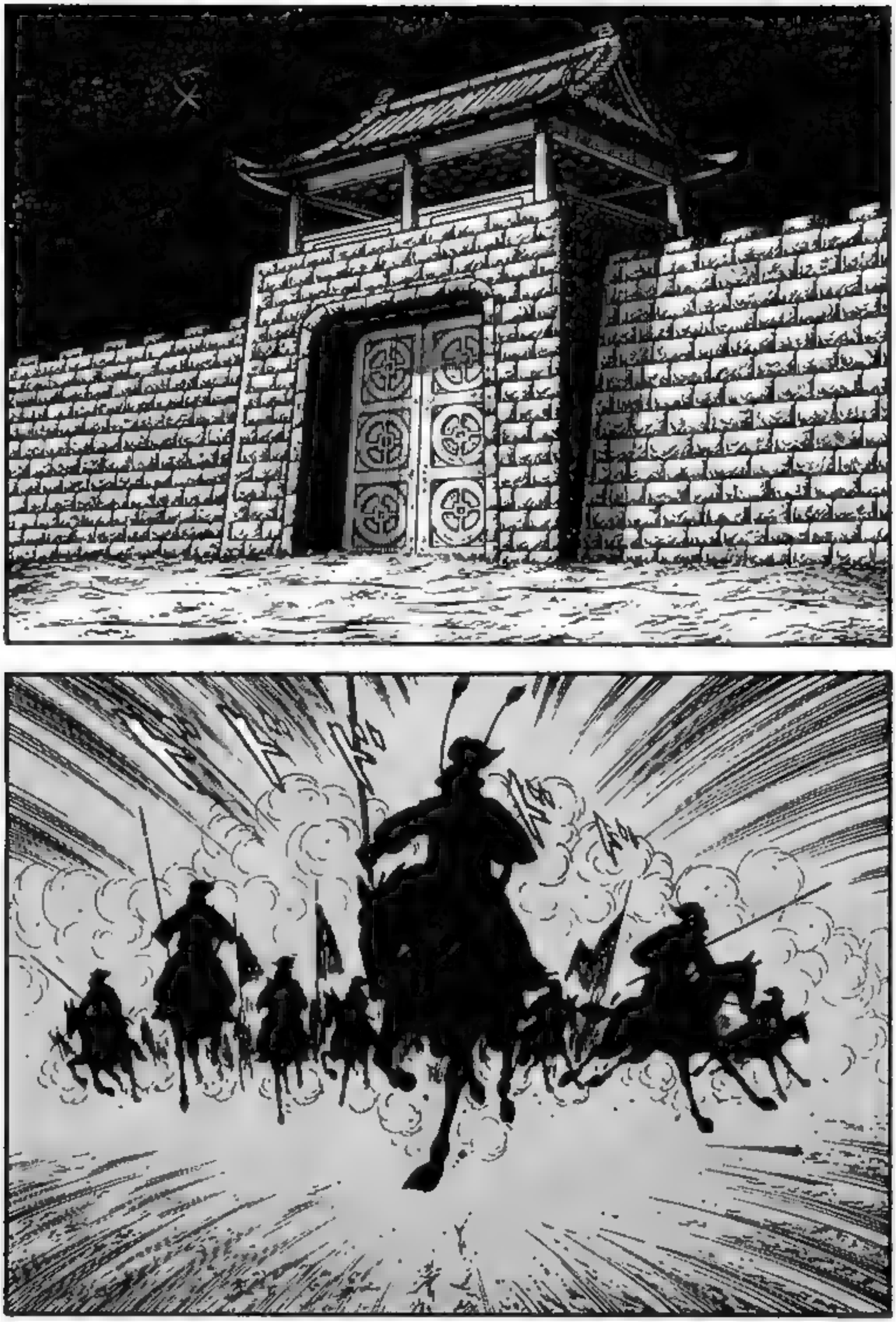
IT WAS CHEN DENG, MY LORD. HE RUSHED OVER TO TELL US THAT CAO CAO'S ARMY WAS NEARING XUZHOU CASTLE AND REINFORCEMENTS WERE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY.

JUST WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM!?

JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...!?

THAT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE TOLD ME...!

ALL SOLDIERS HEAD BACK TO XIAO PASS! WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE IT EMPTY FOR VERY LONG!



FIRE!

AHH!

GAHHH!
AGHHH!

AHHH!

UGH!

RETREAT! RETREAT!

CURSES, CAO CAO'S ARMY HAS ALREADY TAKEN XIAO PASS...!

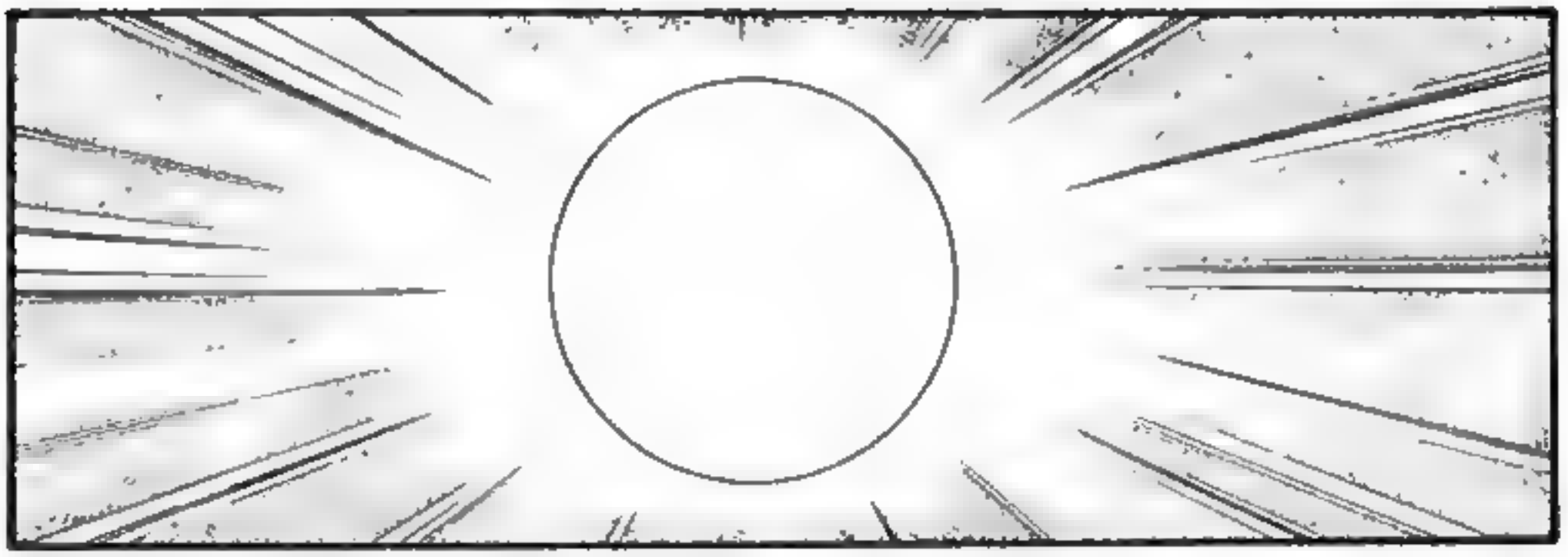
ARGH!

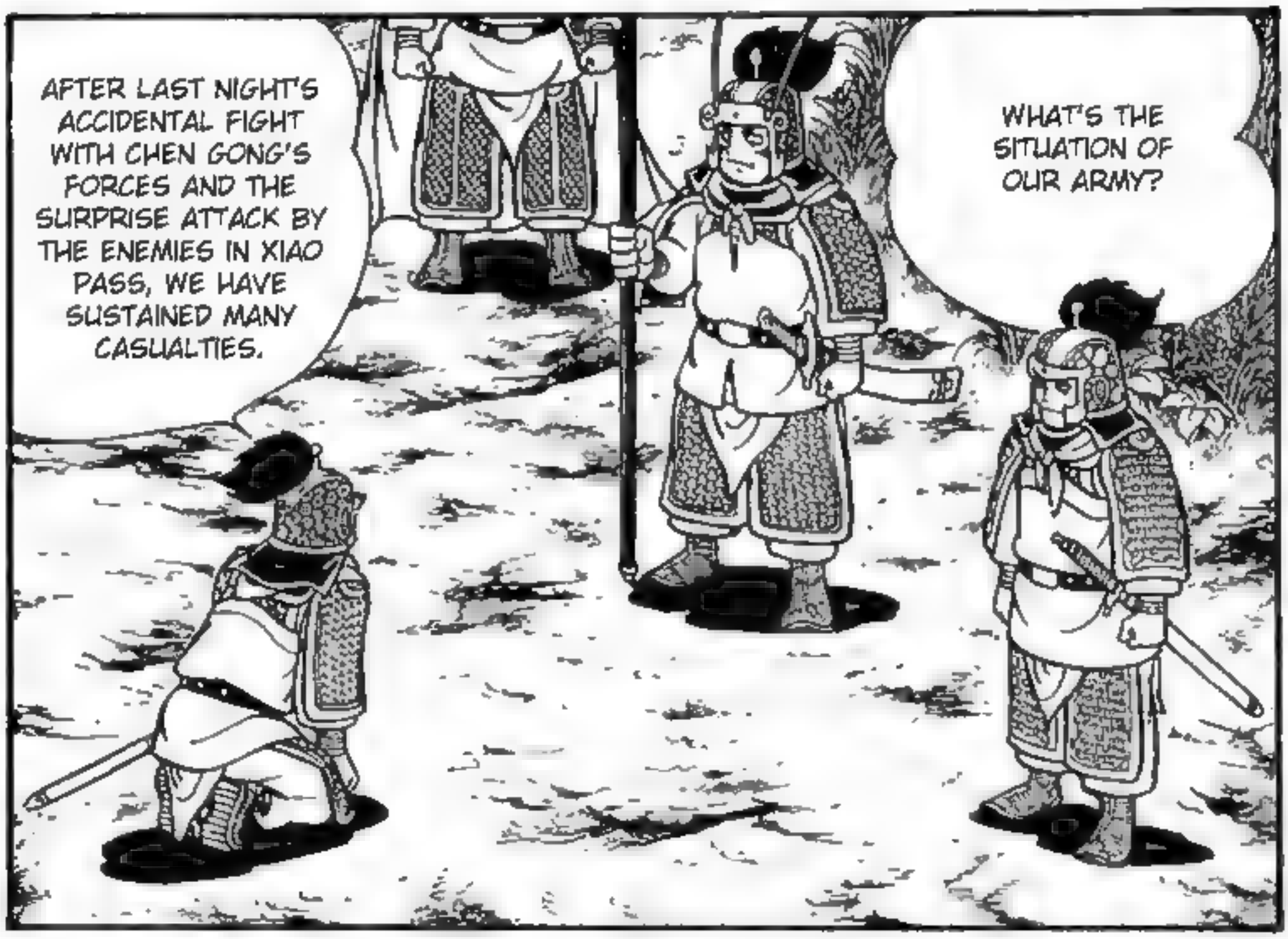
AGHH!

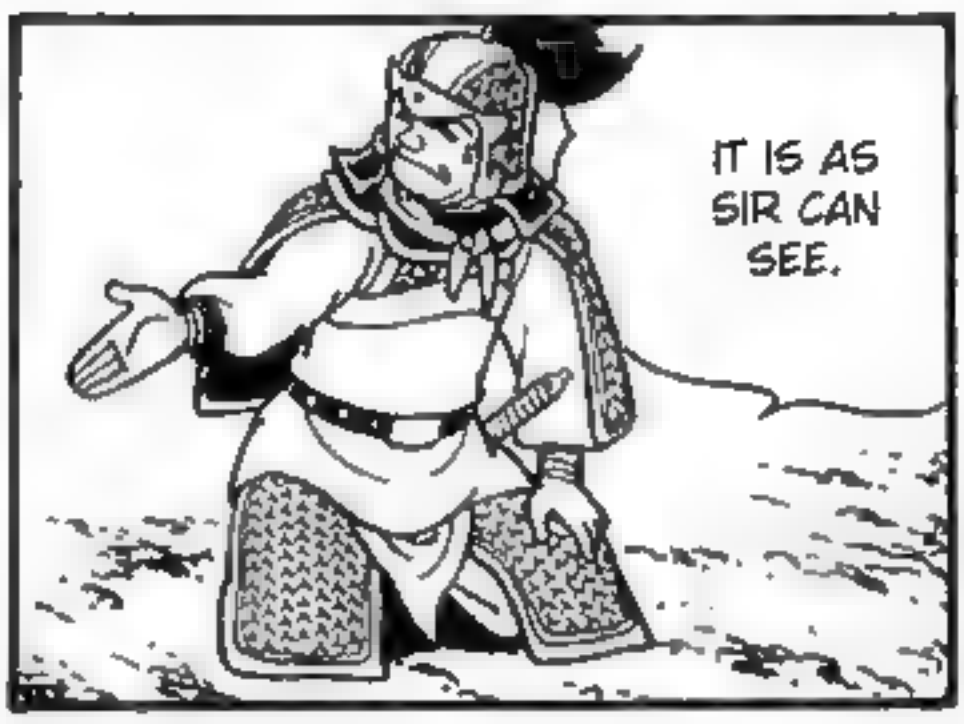
HA HA HA HA HA!

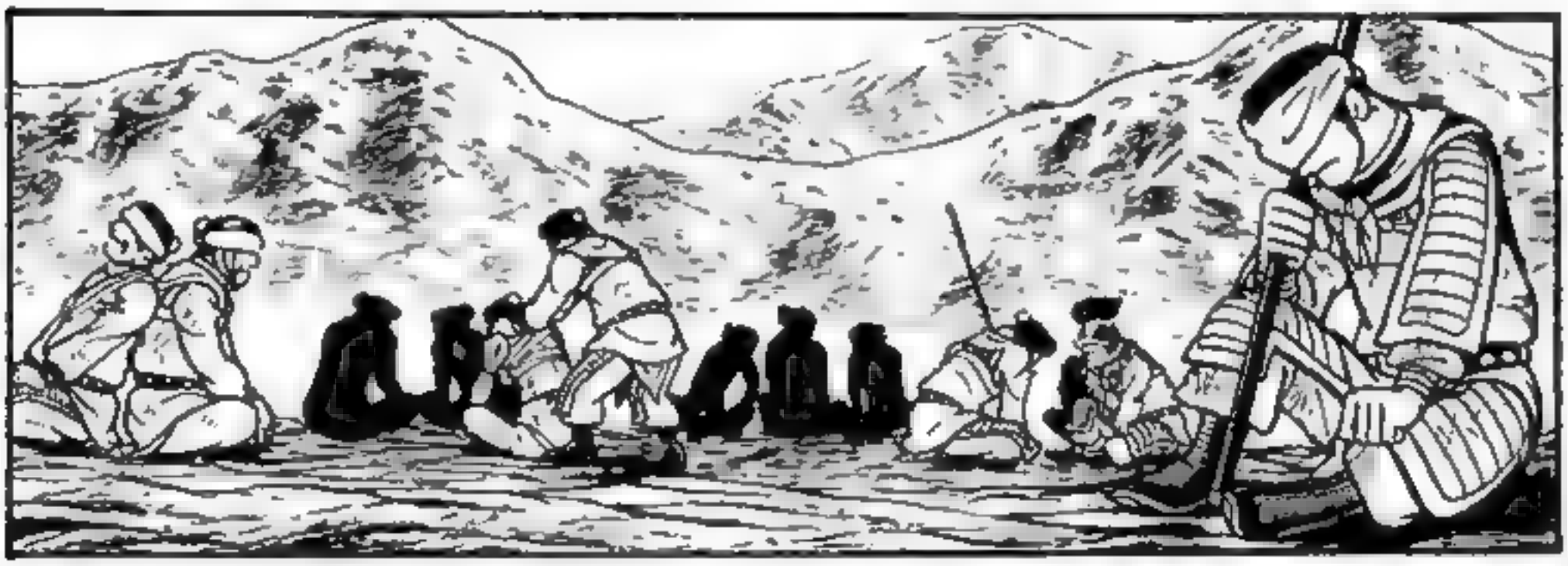
SUCH A SHAME THAT I CAN'T BE THERE TO SEE YOUR PAINED EXPRESSION RIGHT NOW, LU BU!

HAHA...

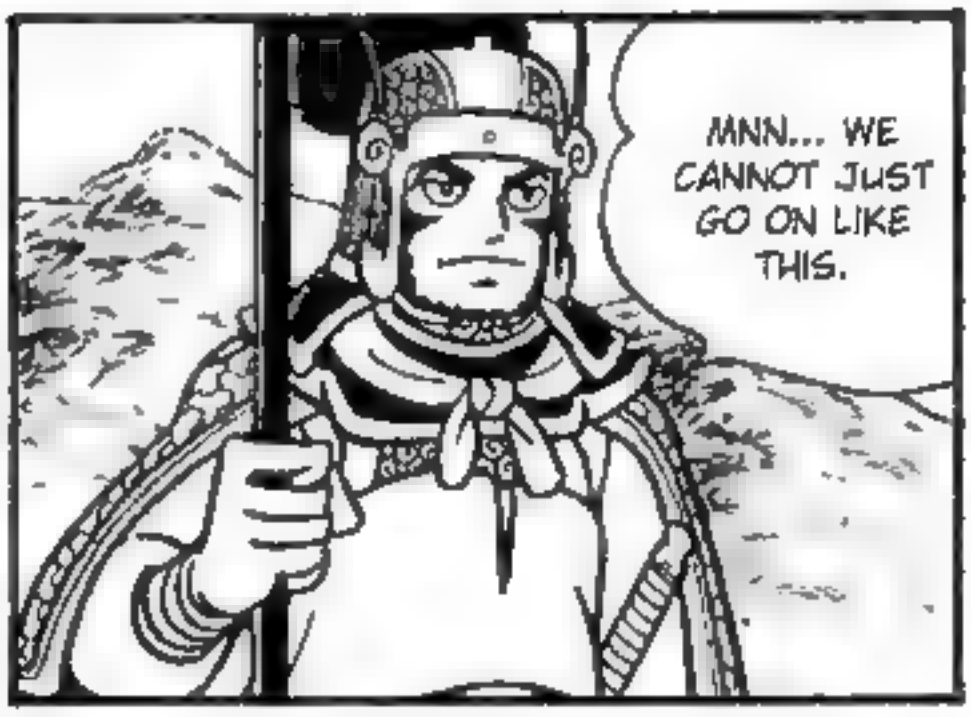



AFTER LAST NIGHT'S ACCIDENTAL FIGHT WITH CHEN GONG'S FORCES AND THE SURPRISE ATTACK BY THE ENEMIES IN XIAO PASS, WE HAVE SUSTAINED MANY CASUALTIES.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION OF OUR ARMY?


IT IS AS SIR CAN SEE.



WE SHALL GO BACK TO XUZHOU TO RECUPERATE OUR LOSSES FIRST.


MNN... WE CANNOT JUST GO ON LIKE THIS.

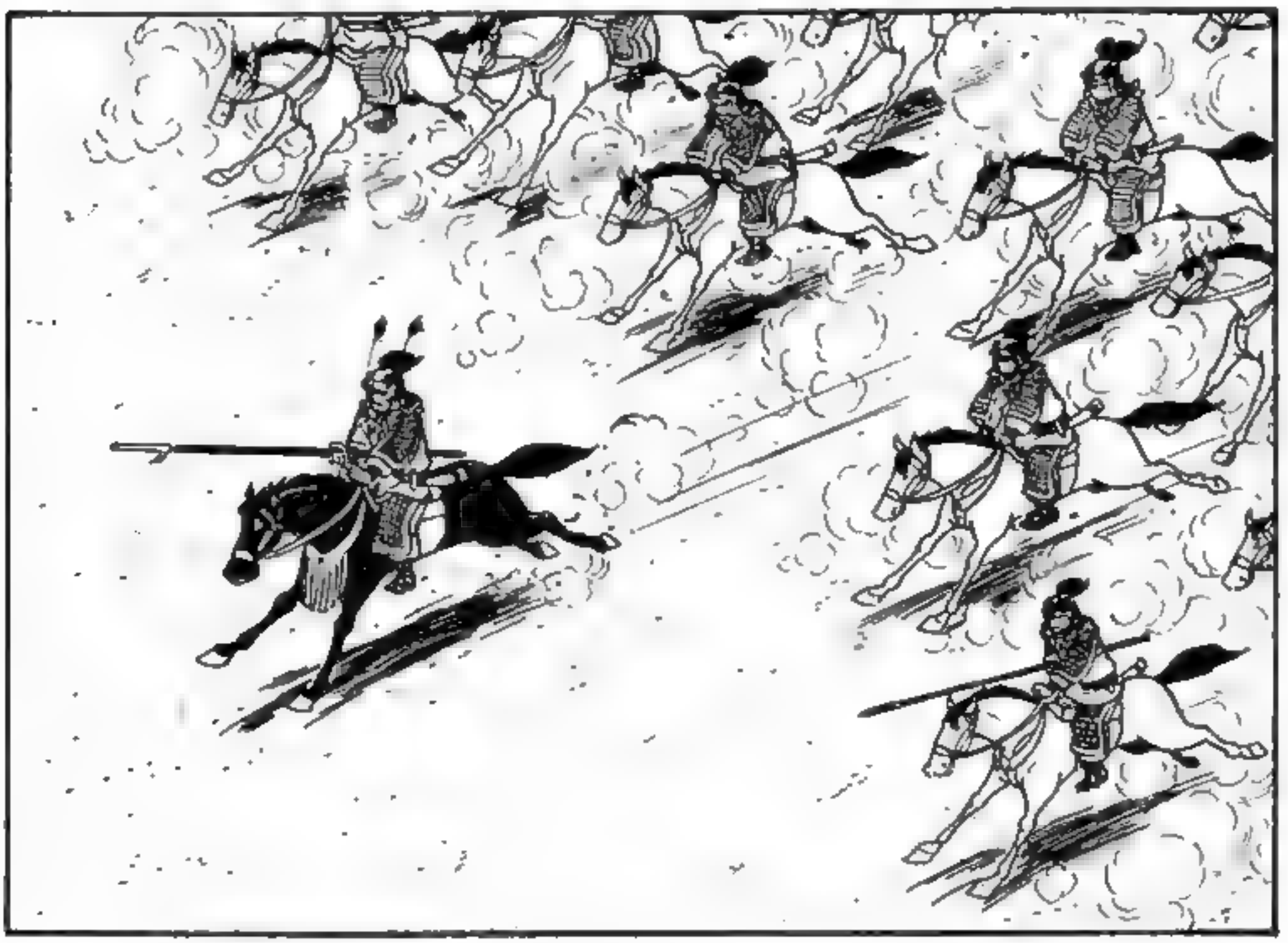
XUZHOU

GOOD, IT SEEMS MY SON HAS SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT HIS PLAN...

....
SIR! LU BU'S FORCES ARE HEADED BACK HERE TO XUZHOU CASTLE!

WE MUST GIVE BACK THIS CASTLE TO OUR TRUE LORD.

YES, SIR!
ALRIGHT MEN! LET US CARRY OUT OUR PARTS AS WELL AS CHEN DENG HAS DONE!



NOW!

OPEN THE GATES! IT IS I, LU BU!

WHA!?

AGHH!

UGH!!!

GAHH!

HAHAHA! THE LORD OF XUZHOU IS NOT A MAN NAMED LU BU!

W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS! IT IS I, LU BU, THE LORD OF XUZHOU!

THE TRUE LORD OF XUZHOU IS LIU BEI XUANDE.

NO NEED TO YELL SO LOUDLY, LU BU.

W-WHAT IS GOING ON!?

AHH! CHEN GUI!

HE ENTRUSTED THEM TO LIU BEI!

TAO QIAN, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU DID NOT ENTRUST THESE LANDS TO YOU WHEN HE PASSED AWAY.

BACK SEVERAL YEARS AGO, TAO QIAN HAPPENED TO INVITE CAO CAO'S FATHER TO GET ON CAO CAO'S GOOD GRACE

AND SO HE PRESENTED CAO SONG WITH GOLD AND SILVER, AND 500 SOLDIERS TO ESCORT HIM.

HE AND THE OTHER MEN.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE CAPTAIN OF THOSE ESCORTS WAS A FORMER YELLOW SCARF REBEL.

MURDERED CAO SONG AND TOOK OFF WITH ALL HIS TREASURES.

CAO CAO WAS INFURIATED BY THIS.

AND SO HE LED AN ENORMOUS ARMY OF A MILLION TO ATTACK XUZHOU

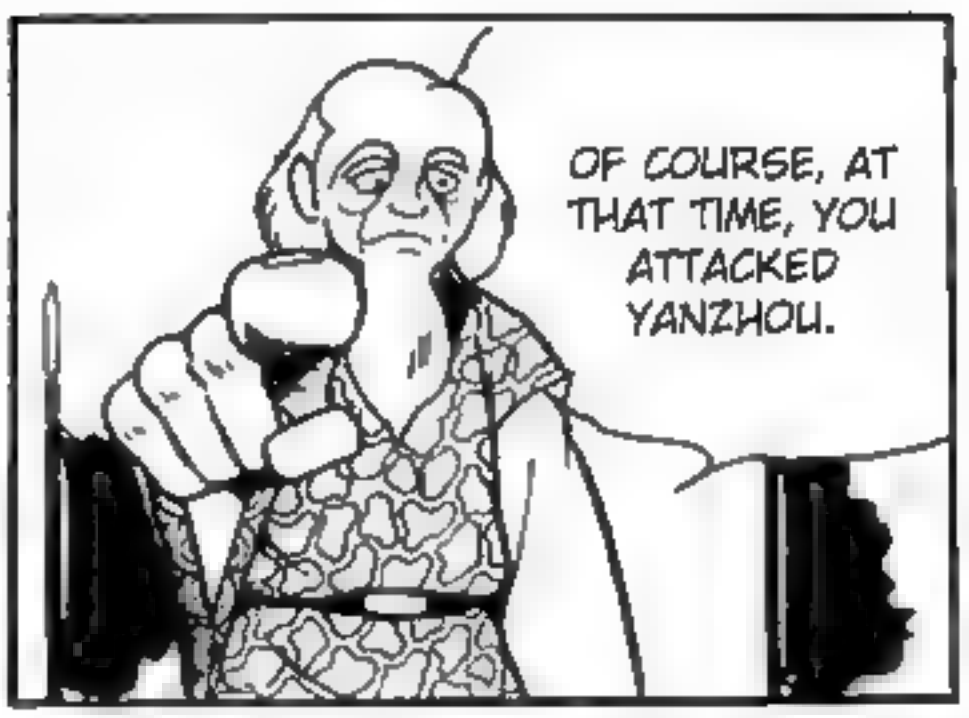
WE STOOD NOT A CHANCE BEFORE CAO CAO'S VAST ARMY AND OUR LORD WAS DETERMINED TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE RATHER THAN TO HAVE HIS PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED

BUT AS HIS PROUD SERVANTS, WE WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END LIKE TRUE WARRIORS

AND THUS, WE SENT OUT A REQUEST FOR AID TO EVERY REGION BUT ONLY ONE MAN RESPONDED

AND THAT MAN WAS LIU BEI. THOUGH HE ONLY HAD 5000 SOLDIERS, HE STILL CAME TO OUR AID, BELIEVING THE CAUSE TO BE JUST

AND THANKS TO THAT, CAO CAO WAS FORCED TO RETREAT.


OF COURSE, AT THAT TIME, YOU ATTACKED YANZHOU.

AFTER THAT, OUR LORD TAO QIAN PASSED AWAY DUE TO OLD AGE AND LEFT XUZHOU IN LIU BEI'S CARE WE SERVANTS ACCEPTED LIU BEI AS OUR NEW LORD BACK THEN

BUT THEN YOU CAME ALONG AND STOLE XUZHOU!

YOU ARE NO LONGER WANTED HERE! GET OUT OF OUR SIGHT!

NEVERTHELESS, THE PEOPLE OF XUZHOU AND I STILL REGARD LIU BEI AS OUR TRUE LORD AND THUS WE SHALL HAND THIS CASTLE BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL MASTER.

ATTACK! LET US RECAPTURE XUZHOU!

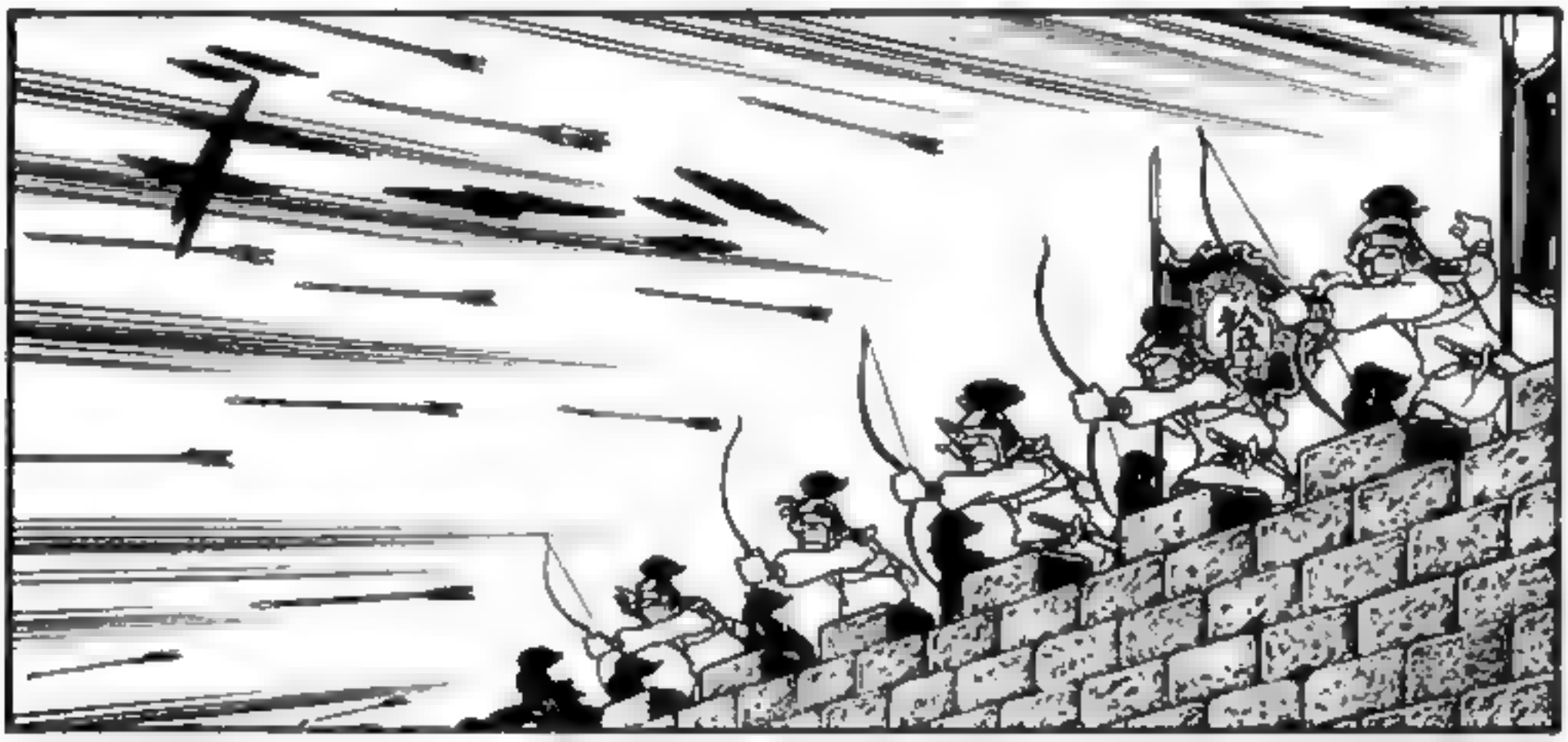
NGHHH!

.....

FOOL! HAVE YOU STILL NOT GRASPED YOUR SITUA-TION YET!?

WHAT ARE YOU MEN ALL STANDING AROUND FOR!? I SAID ATTACK!

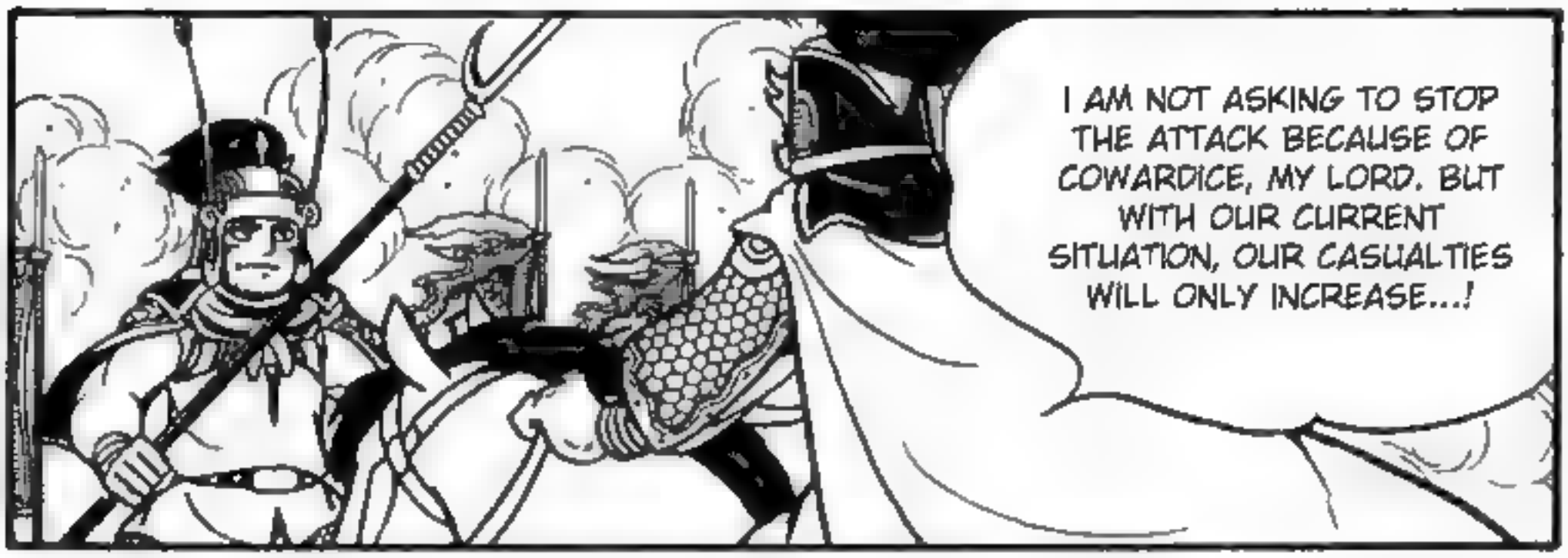
ARCHERS! REMOVE THIS EYESORE FROM MY SIGHT!



MY LORD, YOU MUST CEASE THIS ATTACK!

NGHHH!

AND WHY SHOULD I DO THAT, YOU COWARD!


I AM NOT ASKING TO STOP THE ATTACK BECAUSE OF COWARDICE, MY LORD. BUT WITH OUR CURRENT SITUATION, OUR CASUALTIES WILL ONLY INCREASE...!

CHEN GONG IS RIGHT, SIR. WE MUST RETREAT FOR NOW AND REGROUP OUR FORCES.

IF WE CONTINUE TO ATTACK, WE SHALL NOT HAVE ENOUGH SOLDIERS TO MATCH CAO CAO'S ARMY, MY LORD.

IF THE COMMANDER LOSES HIS COMPOSURE, THEN HIS ARMY IS FINISHED, SIR!

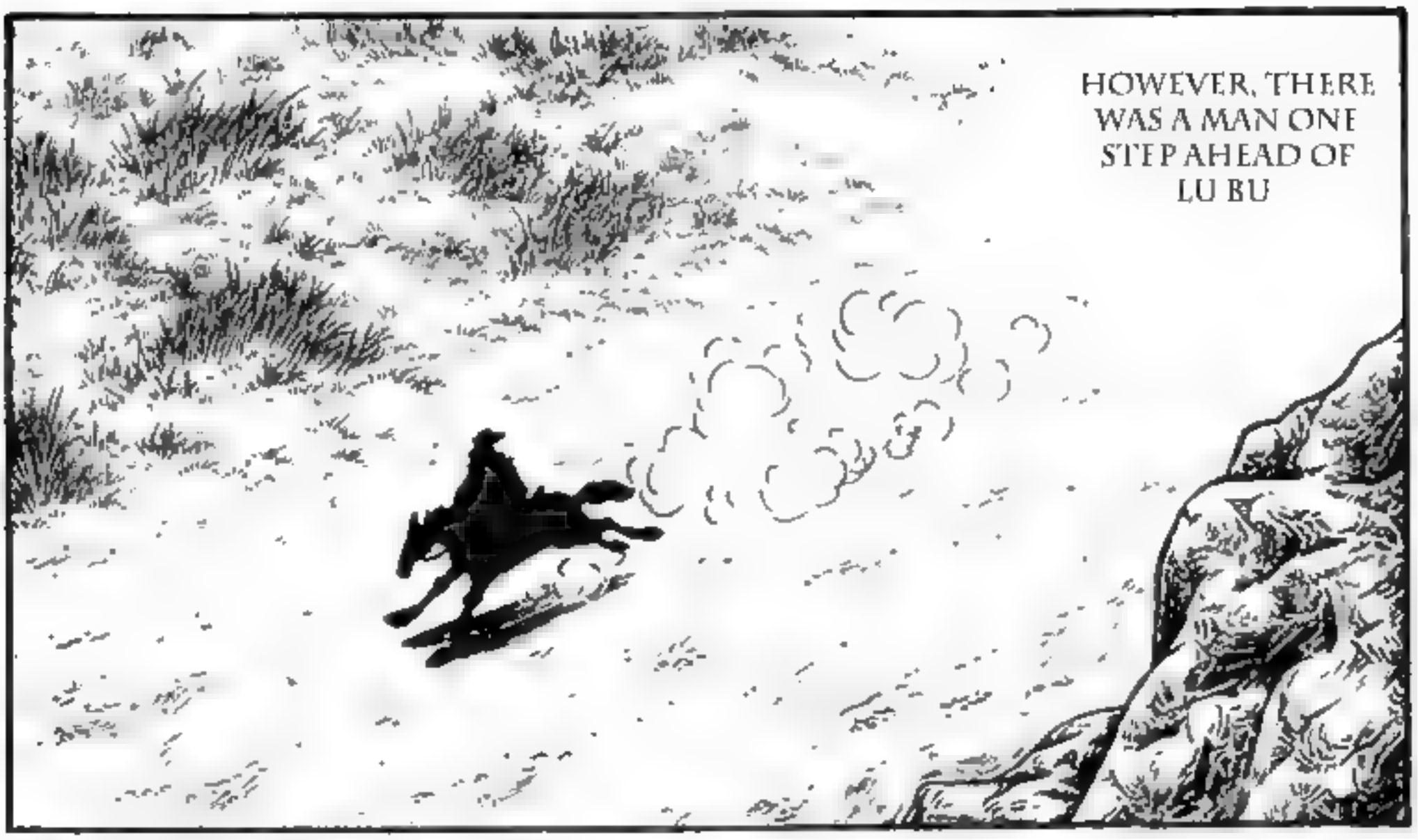
BUT THEN... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO QUELL THIS RAGE IN MY HEART...!?

NGHHH...!

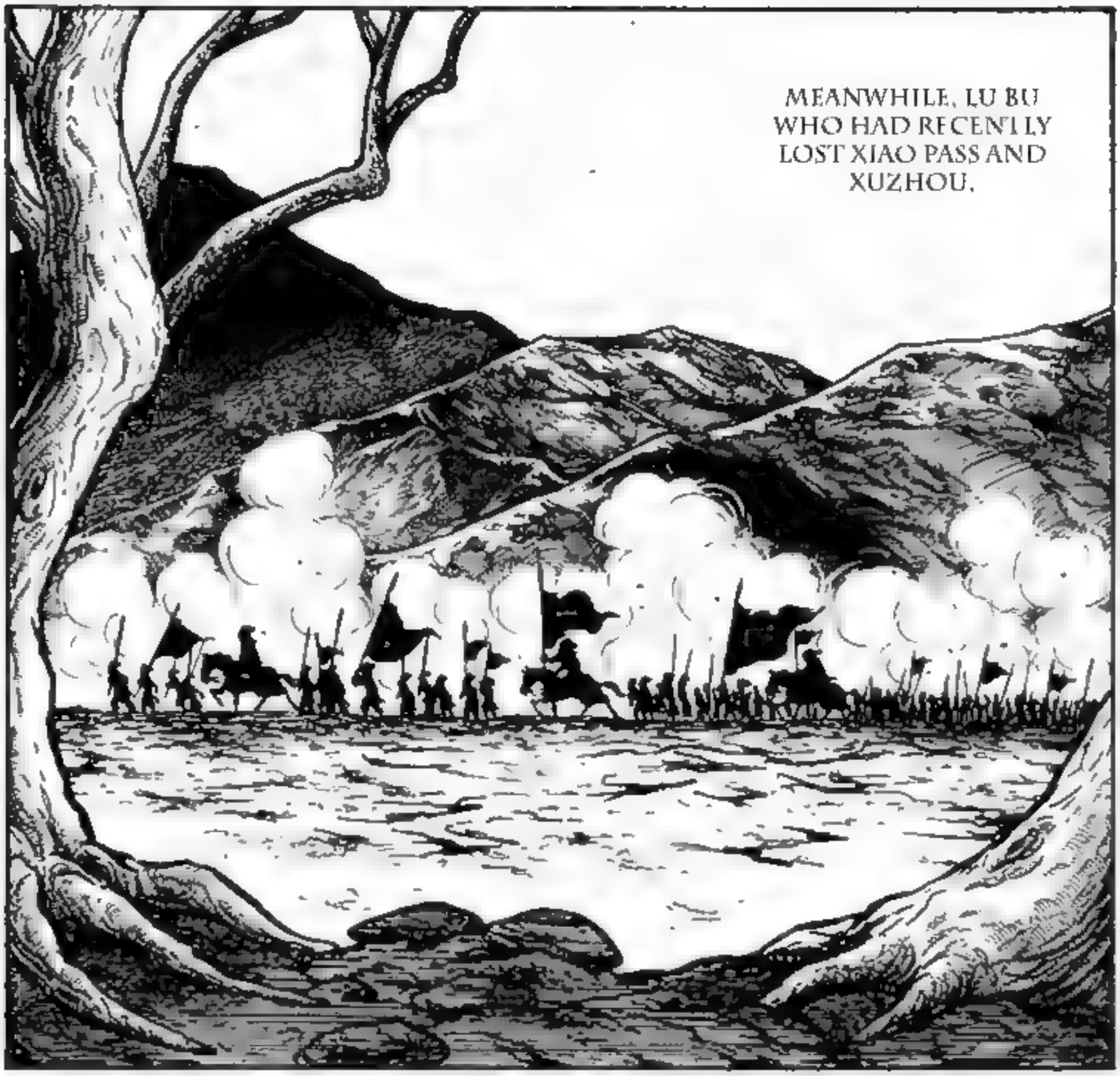
I FULLY SYMPATHIZE WITH SIR'S FEELINGS BUT WE ARE LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE. XIAOPEI IS STILL UNDER OUR CONTROL SO WE MUST RETREAT BACK THERE AND PREPARE TO FACE CAO CAO'S ATTACK.

DESPITE LU BU'S FURY, HE AND HIS SOLDIERS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO REGRETTABLY RETREAT TO XIAOPEI.

LU BU'S WANDERING

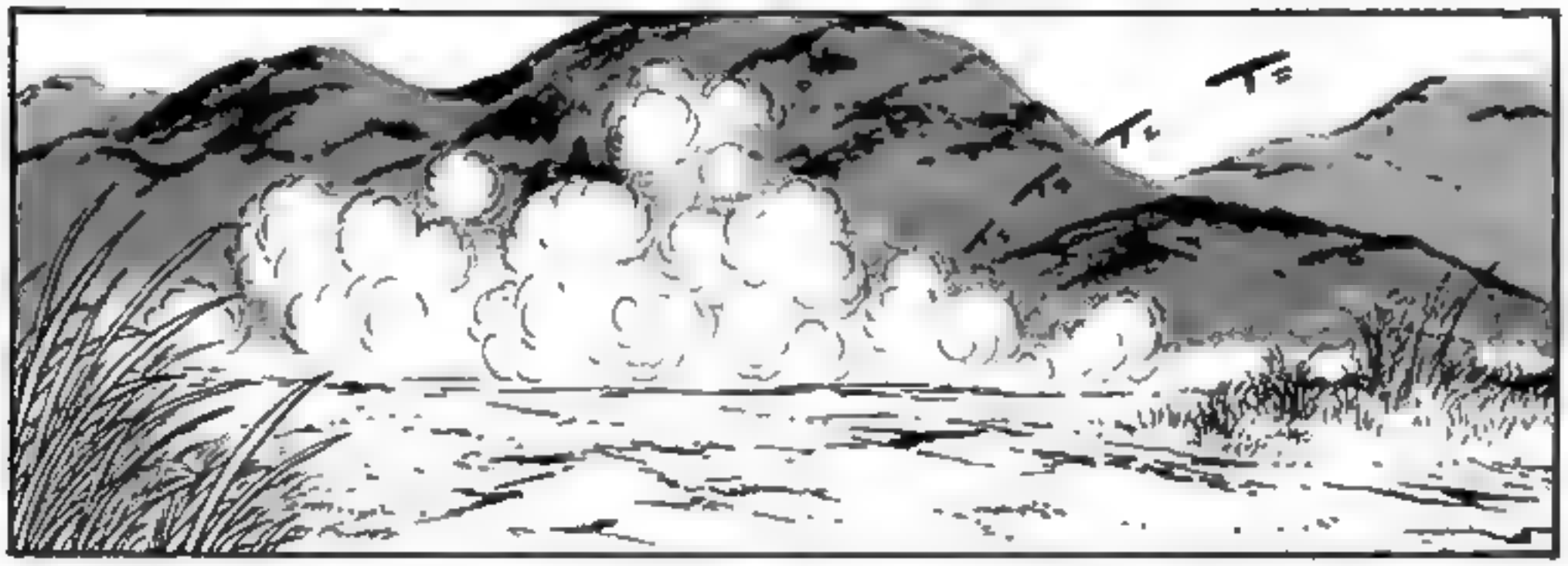


CHEN DENG WAS
NOW RACING
TOWARDS
XIAOPEI TO
COMPLETELY
CORNER LU BU


MEANWHILE, LU BU WHO HAD RECENTLY LOST XIAO PASS AND XUZHOU,

HMM?

WAS NOW HEADED TO THE CASTLE OF XIAOPEI, GUARDED BY GENERALS ZHANG LIAO AND GAO SHUN



LET US FIGHT OUR WAY TO XIAOPEI THEN!

ENEMIES!

MY LORD, WAIT!

WHAT!?

THOSE ARE OUR SIDE'S FLAGS!

*GAO (高) FOR GAO SHUN; ZHANG (張) FOR ZHANG LIAO

AREN'T THOSE THE FLAGS OF ZHANG LIAO AND GAO SHUN!?

AHHH!

YES, SIR!

GO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

HALT! MAY YOU BE THE GENERALS ZHANG LIAO AND GAO SHUN!?

AS EVIDENT FROM OUR FLAGS, WE ARE OF LU BU'S ARMY!

YES, AND YOU SOLDIERS ARE...?

THAT'S WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK. WEREN'T YOU GENERALS ORDERED WITH THE TASK OF GUARDING XIAOPEI?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE THEN?

SIR, THEY WERE DECEIVED BY CHEN DENG.

CHEN DENG CAME TO TELL OF THE URGENT NEWS THAT OUR LORD LU BU HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY ENEMY FORCES AND REQUIRED REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY.

I SWEAR I SHALL TEAR CHEN DENG TO PIECES! LET US MAKE HASTE AND HEAD TO XIAOPEI!

DAMN THOSE CHENS...!

SILENCE! I SHALL NOT BEAR THOSE CHENS TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME ANY LONGER!

MY LORD, WE MUST NOT BE RASH. XIAOPEI MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY CAO CAO'S ARMY JUST LIKE WITH XIAO PASS.

IF THE ENEMIES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN XIAOPEI, THEN WE WILL JUST HAVE TO RECAPTURE IT!

NGHHH...!

LOOK, MY LORD. AS I HAVE FEARED, CAO CAO'S FORCES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN XIAOPEI.

CHEN DENG! SHOW YOURSELF!

WHAT!?

AH! IS THAT A HOMELESS MAN I SEE RIDING ON THE RED HARE!?

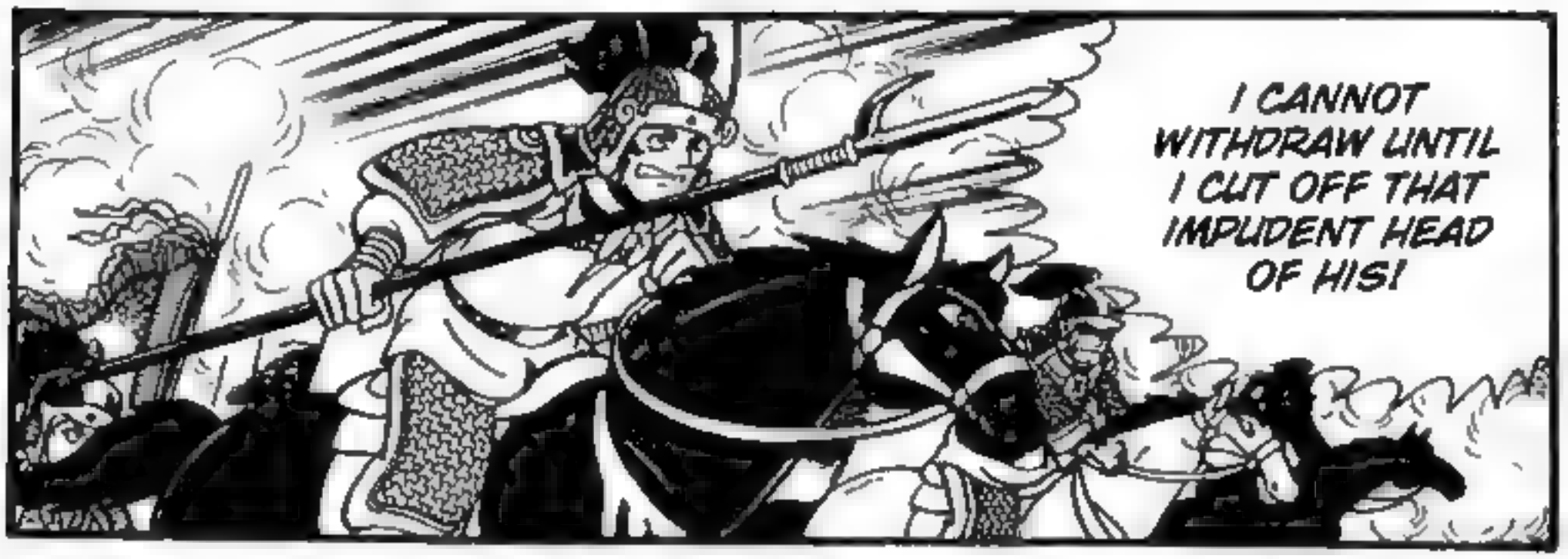
CHEN DENG! HOW DARE YOU BETRAY ME AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU!

SILENCE! I NOR MY FATHER ARE NOT AND NEVER WERE YOUR SUBORDINATES. WE HAVE NEVER BETRAYED ANYONE!

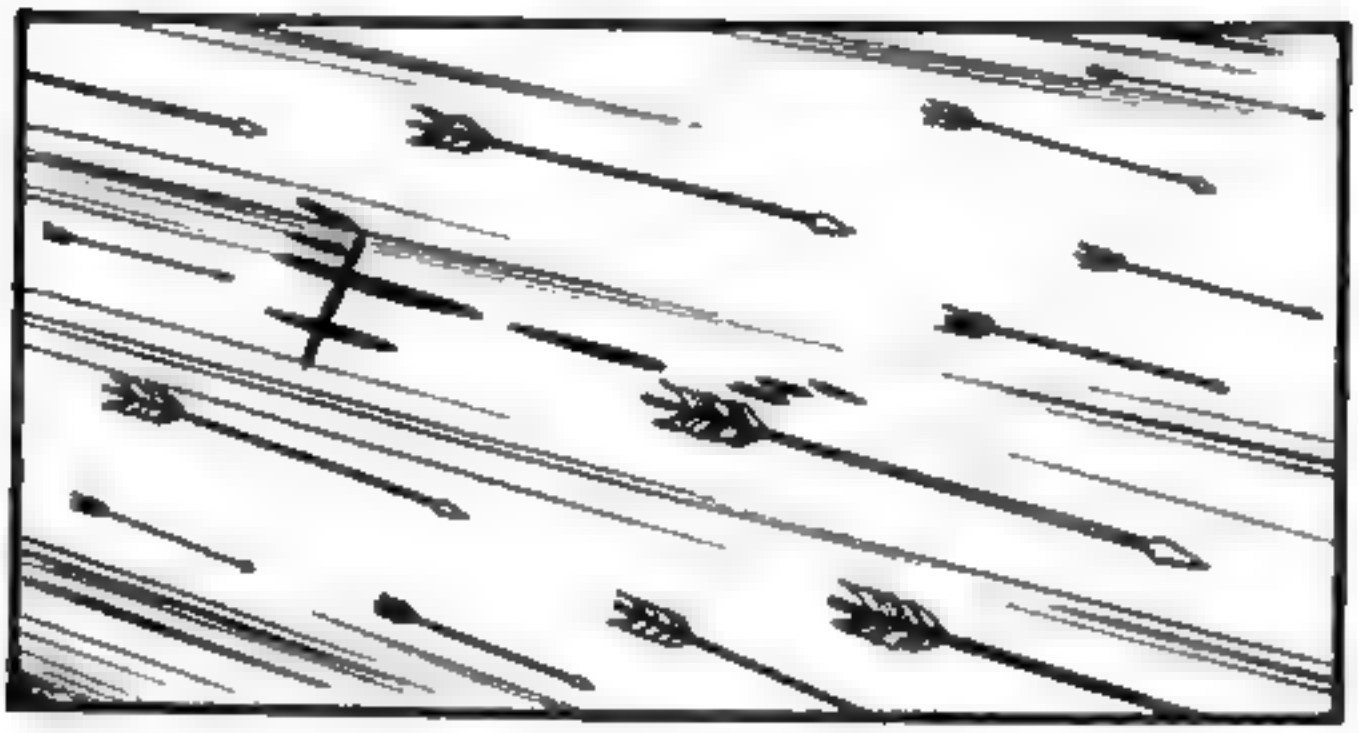
MY TRUE LORD IS LIU BEI! HOW COULD I EVER CALL YOU MY MASTER, WHEN IT WAS YOU WHO BETRAYED MY LORD'S KINDNESS AND STOLE XUZHOU!?

ATTACK! WE MUST TAKE XIAOPEI BACK!

NGHH!


I CANNOT WITHDRAW UNTIL I CUT OFF THAT IMPUDENT HEAD OF HIS!

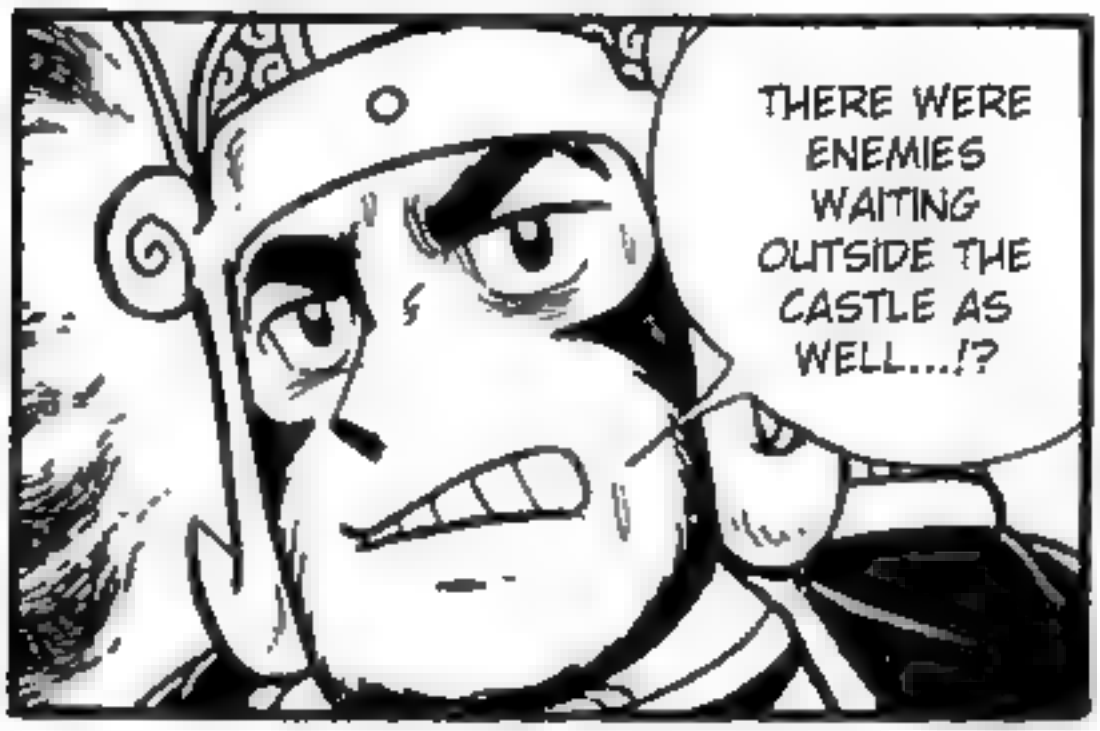
NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO ANNHILATE LU BU'S ARMY!



SIR! OVER THERE!

DO NOT RETREAT! KEEP ON CHARGING, MY MEN!

WHAT!?


THERE WERE ENEMIES WAITING OUTSIDE THE CASTLE AS WELL...!?

AHH!

TURN AROUND AND ENGAGE IN BATTLE WITH THE ENEMIES BEHIND!

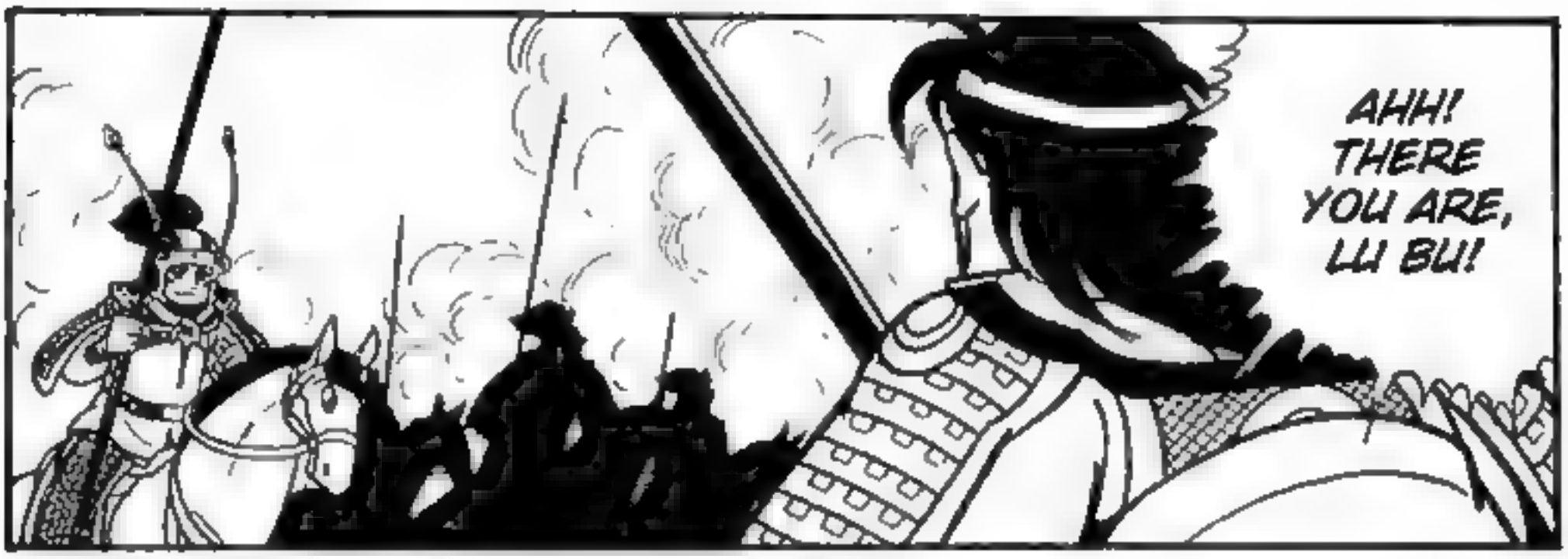
IT'S GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI!

AHH!

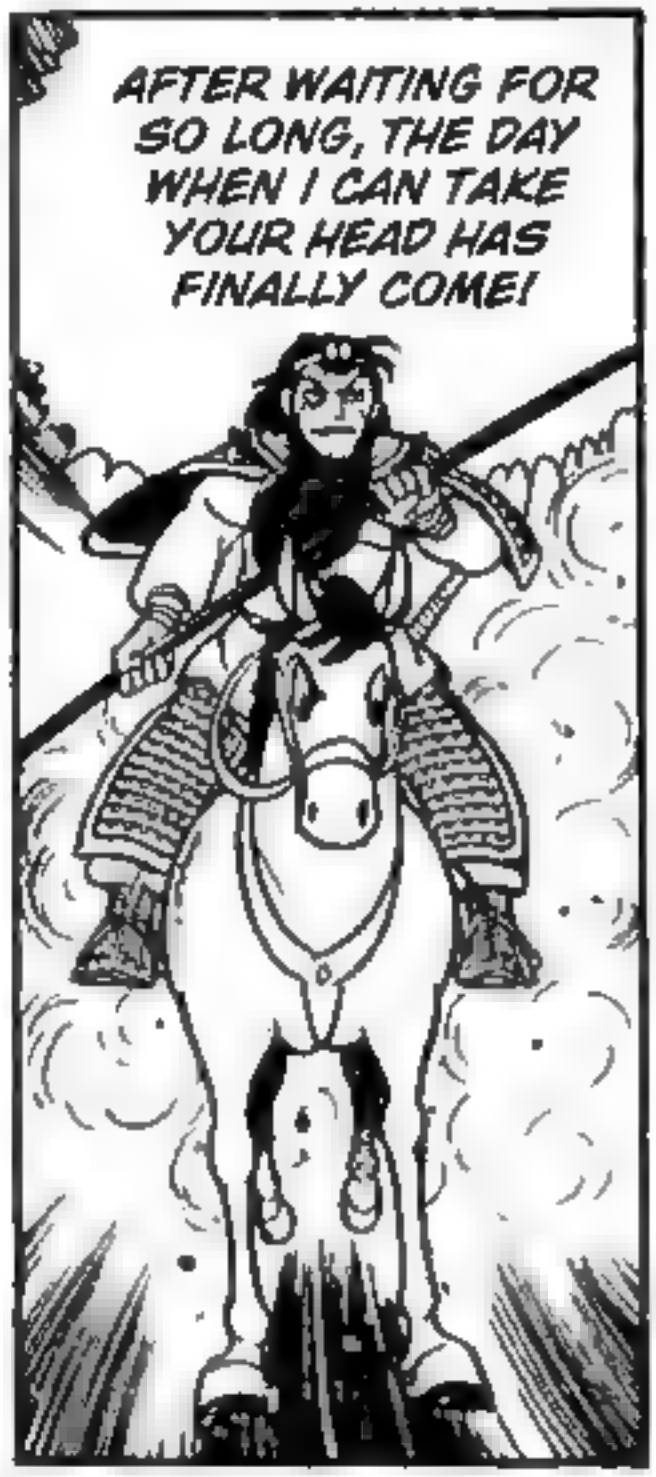
LU BU! SHOW YOURSELF!

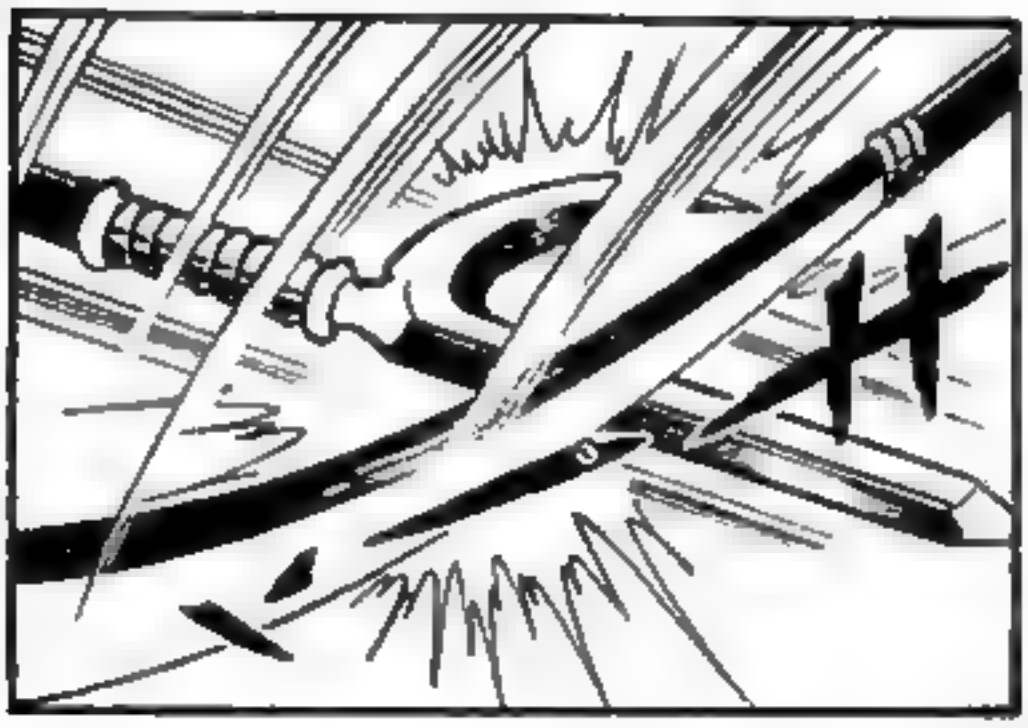
SO IT'S LIU BEI'S ARMY AND NOT CAO CAO'S...?

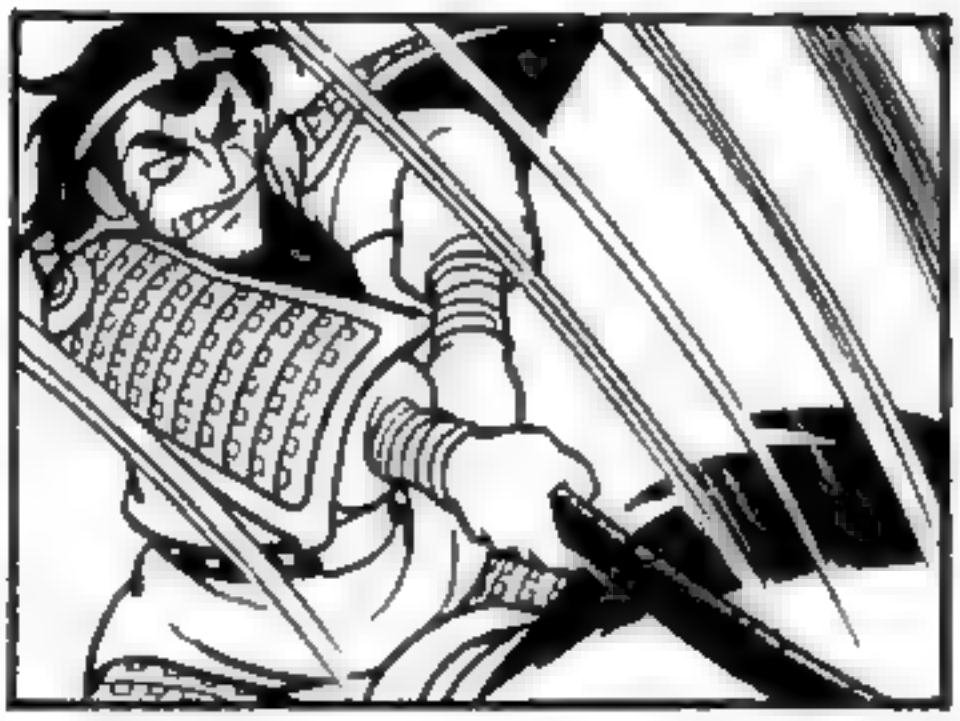
PESKY LITTLE THINGS ...!
I ONLY DESIRE LU BU'S HEAD! I DO NOT HAVE THE TIME NOR PATIENCE TO CUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU DOWN!


AHH! THERE YOU ARE, LU BU!

HA! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!


AFTER WAITING FOR SO LONG, THE DAY WHEN I CAN TAKE YOUR HEAD HAS FINALLY COME!





AND THE SAME TO YOU...!
AS EXPECTED OF YOU...

AH, LU BU! GOOD TO SEE YOUR HEAD IS STILL ATTACHED TO YOUR NECK FOR ME TO CUT!

IT'S BEST TO RETREAT FOR TODAY...

DAMN, TAKING BOTH OF THEM AT ONCE MIGHT BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR ME...

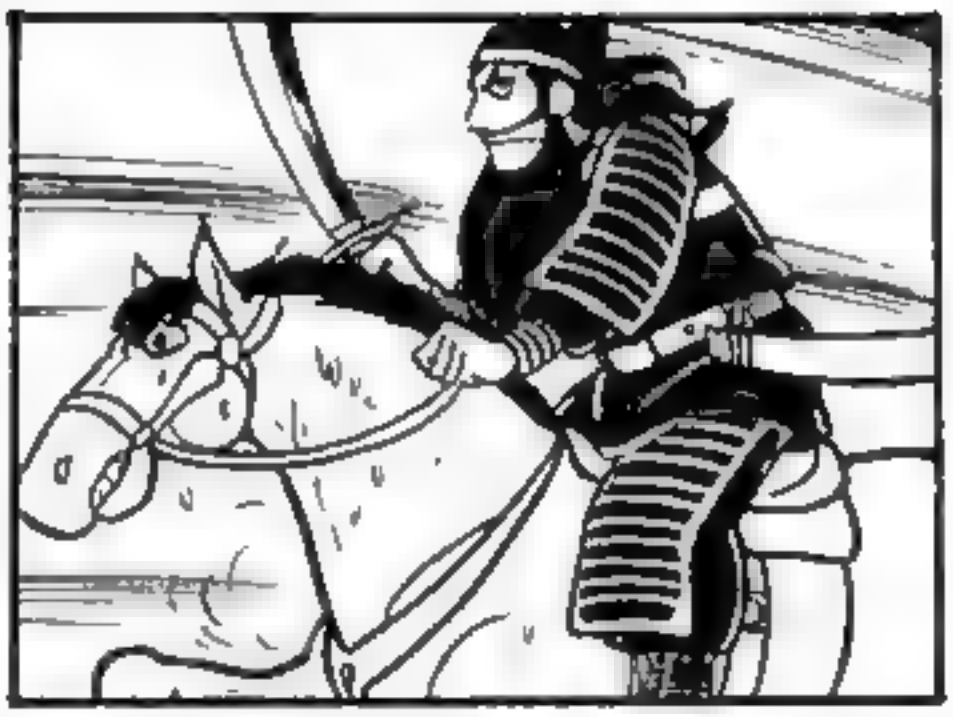
TURNING TAIL, LU BU!?

HA! CONSIDER YOURSELVES LUCKY! I SHALL REGROUP MY ARMY AND LATER COME BACK TO FINISH YOU ALL OFF!

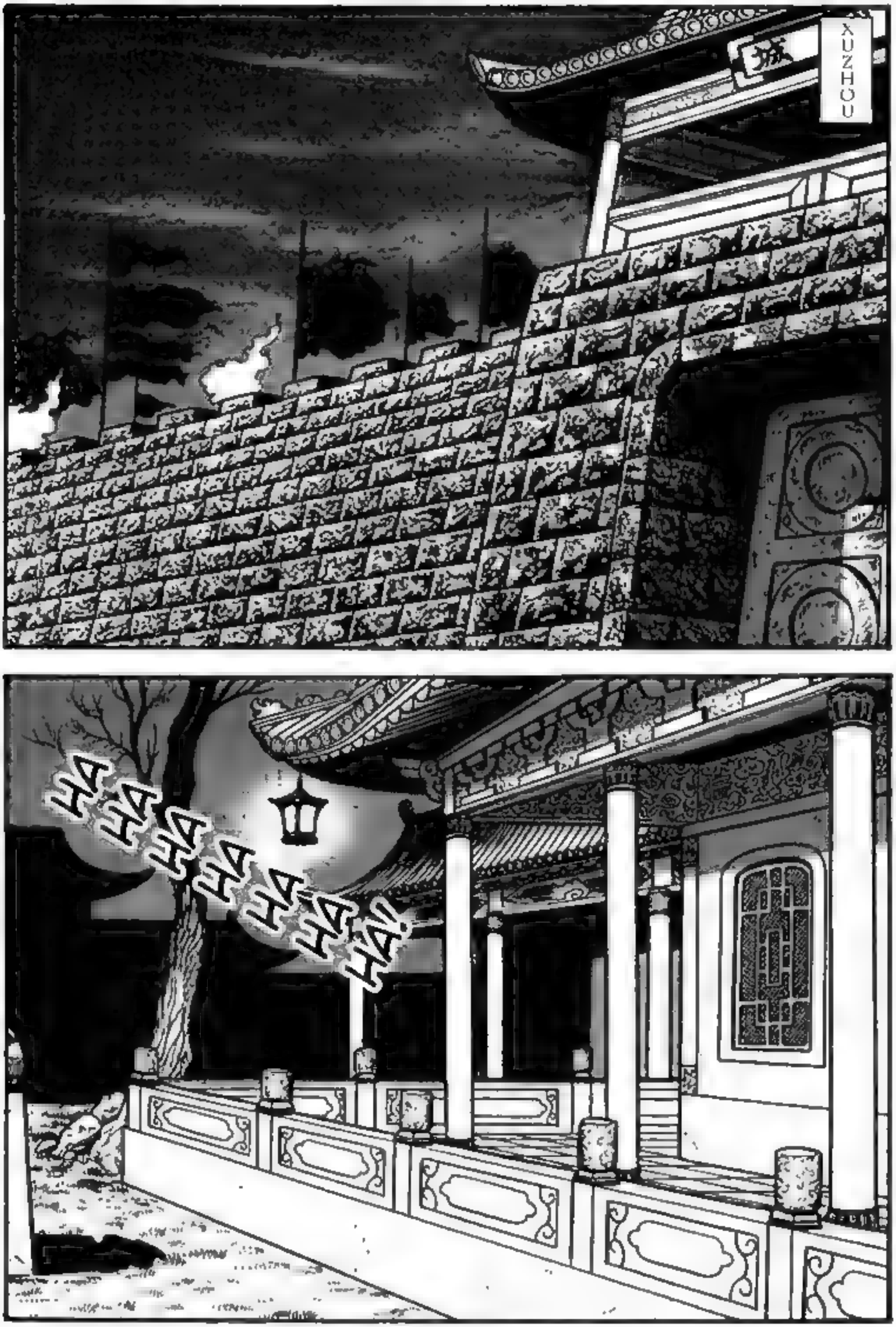
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE!

ZHANG FEI, DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

GO AHEAD! TRY AND SEE IF YOU CAN CATCH UP TO MY RED HARE!



NGHHH, DAMN...
IT'S NO GOOD. THAT HORSE IS MUCH TOO FAST FOR OURS...


XUZHOU
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL YOU GENTLEMEN HERE FOR YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS SO FAR. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU ALL THAT WE HAVE MANAGED TO CAPTURE ALMOST THE ENTIRETY OF THE XUZHOU PROVINCE.

LU BU HAS CURRENTLY FLED TO XIAPI, WHERE HIS FAMILY IS ALSO AT.

SO LET US ENJOY THIS FEAST TONIGHT AND PREPARE TO MOVE ON OUT TO XIAPI TOMORROW!

BUT XIAPI IS JUST A SINGLE CASTLE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF XUZHOU. IT SHALL NOT TAKE LONG TO CAPTURE.

LONG LIVE CHANCELLOR CAO CAO!

LONG LIVE LORD LIU BEI!

ZHANG FEI, DRINK WITH MODERATION.

THE WINE AFTER VICTORY IS EXCEPTIONAL.

BY THE WAY, GUAN YU, ZHANG FEI, WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN SINCE XIAOPEI FELL TO LU BU?

YEAH, YEAH. I ALREADY KNOW, BROTHER.

AND I WAS CAMPED IN MANGDANG HILLS, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO SHOW UP AGAIN.

I WAS TEMPORARILY HIDING IN HAIZHOU.

AND WE ARE RELIEVED TO SEE YOU SAFE AND SOUND AS WELL.

WELL I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU TWO SAFE.

NOW, PLEASE, DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!

WE MUST COMPLETELY SURROUND XIAPI.

BUT IF WE SURROUND THEM COMPLETELY WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING A ROUTE FOR THEM TO ESCAPE, OUR ENEMIES MIGHT PREPARE THEMSELVES TO FIGHT DOWN TO THE VERY LAST MAN.

YES. AS THE SAYING GOES, "EVEN A CORNERED RAT WILL BITE BACK AT THE CAT." WE MIGHT END UP FIGHTING A VERY BLOODY BATTLE.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT LU BU AND YUAN SHU POSSIBLY JOINING HANDS.

NO.

THEN SHOULD WE NOT LEAVE THEM AT LEAST ONE ESCAPE ROUTE?

WE'LL BE THE ONES IN TROUBLE IF THAT HAPPENS.

IF WE LEAVE THEM AN ESCAPE ROUTE, THE ENEMIES MIGHT USE IT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YUAN SHU TO ASK FOR REINFORCEMENTS...

HMM, AS SIR SAYS, WE MUST AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS.

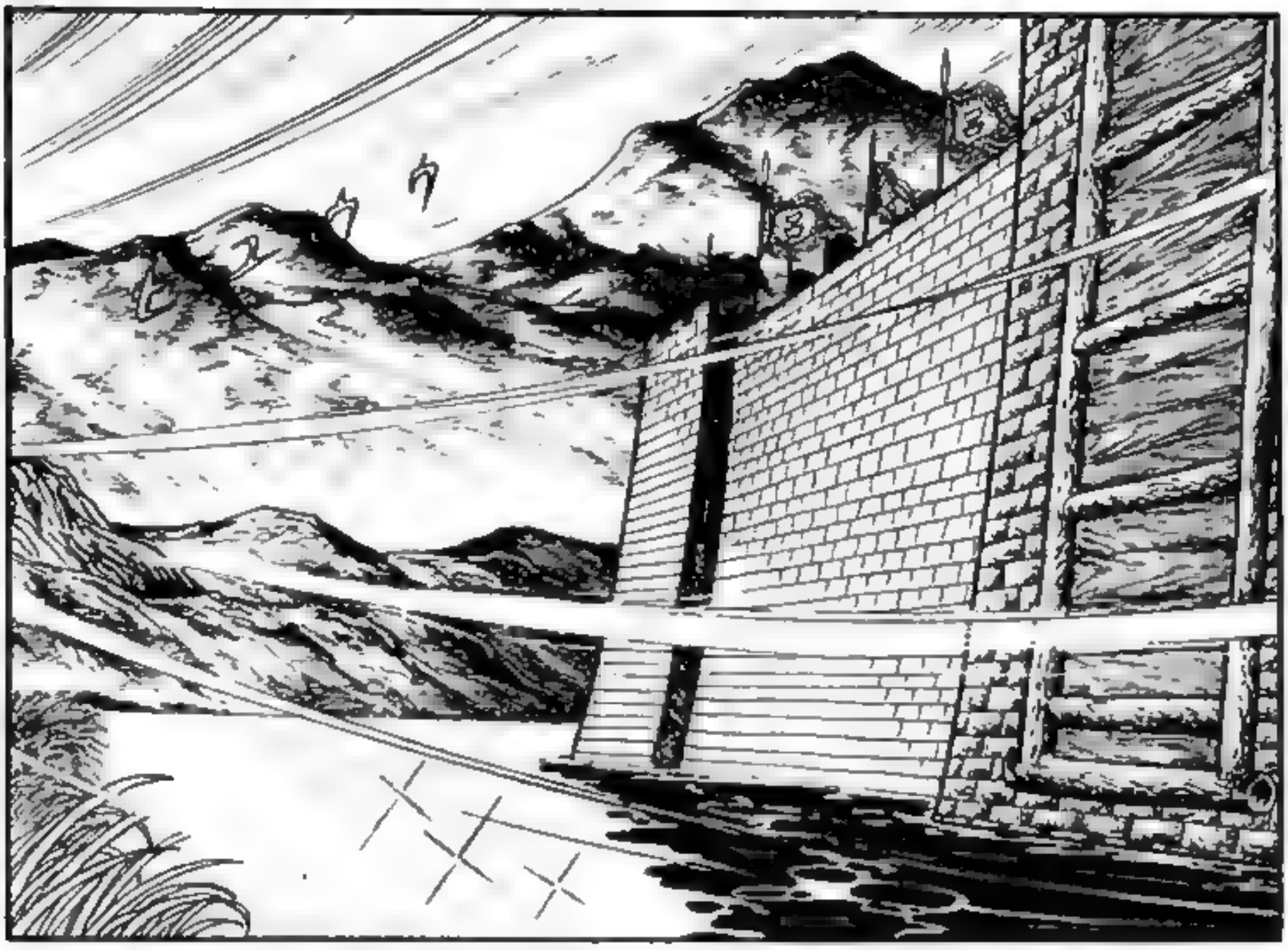
OF COURSE, SIR.

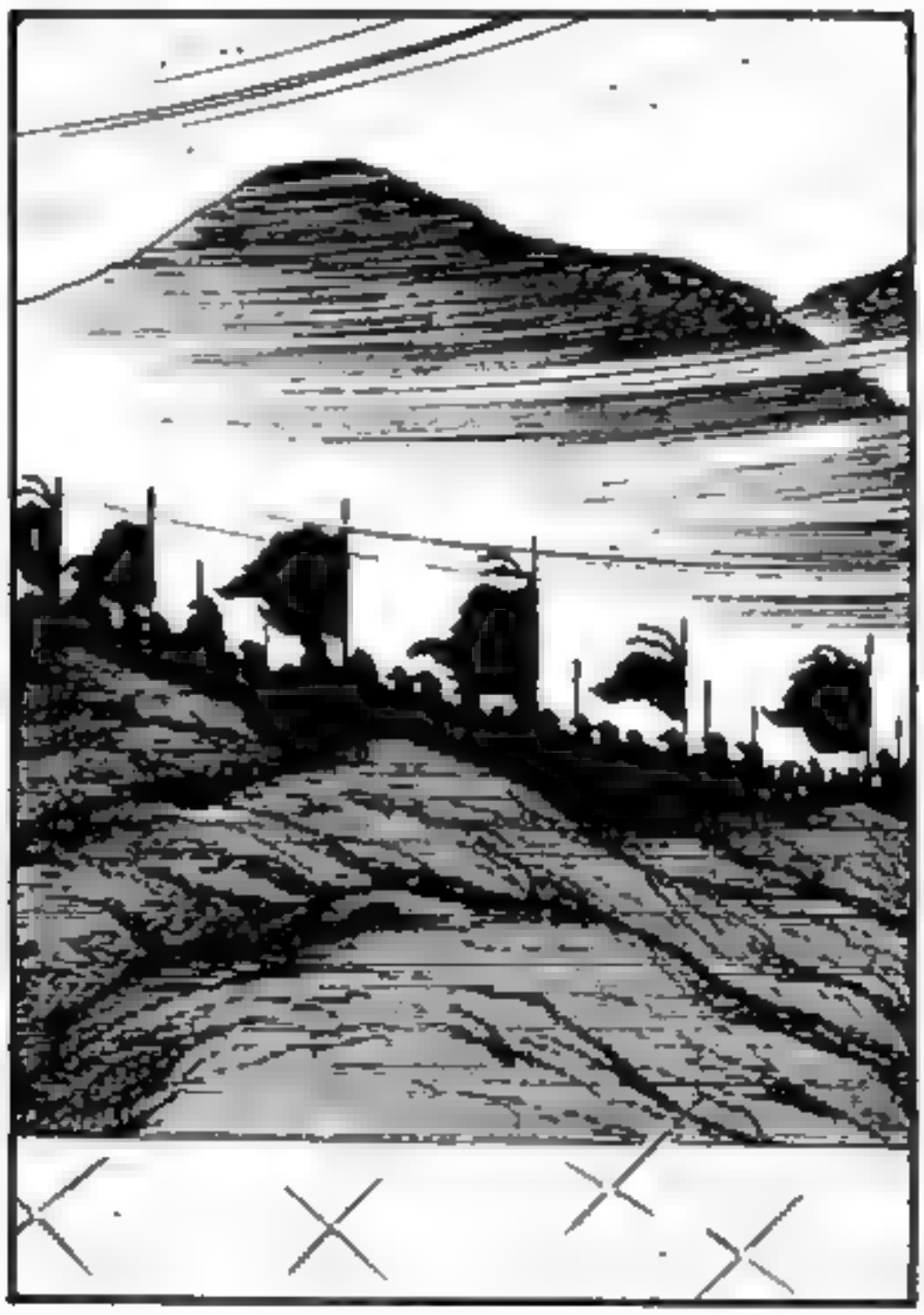
XUANDE, I WANT YOU AND THE SOLDIERS OF XUZHOU TO MAKE SURE ALL THE ROUTES FROM XIAPI TO HUAINAN ARE BLOCKED.

AND SO, BARRIERS AND CHECKING POSTS WERE SET UP AT ALL PATHS.

NUMEROUS WATCHTOWERS WERE CONSTRUCTED XIAPI HAD NOW BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

AND,





MAY THE HEAVENS BLESS ME WITH A SNOWSTORM SOON TO FREEZE THE ENEMIES TO DEATH...

IT APPEARS THAT WE'VE BEEN COMPLETELY SURROUNDED...

MY LORD, IT IS STILL TOO SOON TO DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON MOTHER NATURE. THERE IS STILL ANOTHER METHOD WE CAN USE TO ACHIEVE VICTORY.

IF WE LEAD OUR ARMY OUT TO ATTACK, WE CAN DELIVER A CRITICAL BLOW TO THESE EXHAUSTED AND UNRESTED ENEMIES.

CAO CAO'S ARMY IS FATIGUED AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY HERE AND THE NUMEROUS BATTLES. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE BEEN BUSYING THEMSELVES TO PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING HARSH WINTER.

WE MUST WAIT UNTIL OUR MORALE RISES AND THE WOUNDED HAVE RECUPERATED BEFORE ATTACKING.

NO... WE STILL HAVE MANY WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND OUR MEN ARE IN LOW MORALE AFTER OUR RECENT DEFEATS.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

B-BUT SIR, THE ENEMIES ARE SURELY WORSE OFF THAN WE ARE RIGHT N...

HMM?

LU BU, ARE YOU THERE!?

YES, WHAT IS IT!?

?

?

AND WHY HAVE YOU COME TO PERSONALLY TALK WITH ME?

IT IS I, CAO CAO!

LU BU, WE WERE ALLIES THAT FOUGHT ON THE SAME SIDE NOT TOO LONG AGO. I BEAR NO REAL GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.

THAT IS BECAUSE I HEARD THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE A MARRIAGE BETWEEN YOUR DAUGHTER AND YUAN SHU'S SON!

THEN WHY HAVE YOU COME TO ATTACK MY XUZHOU!?

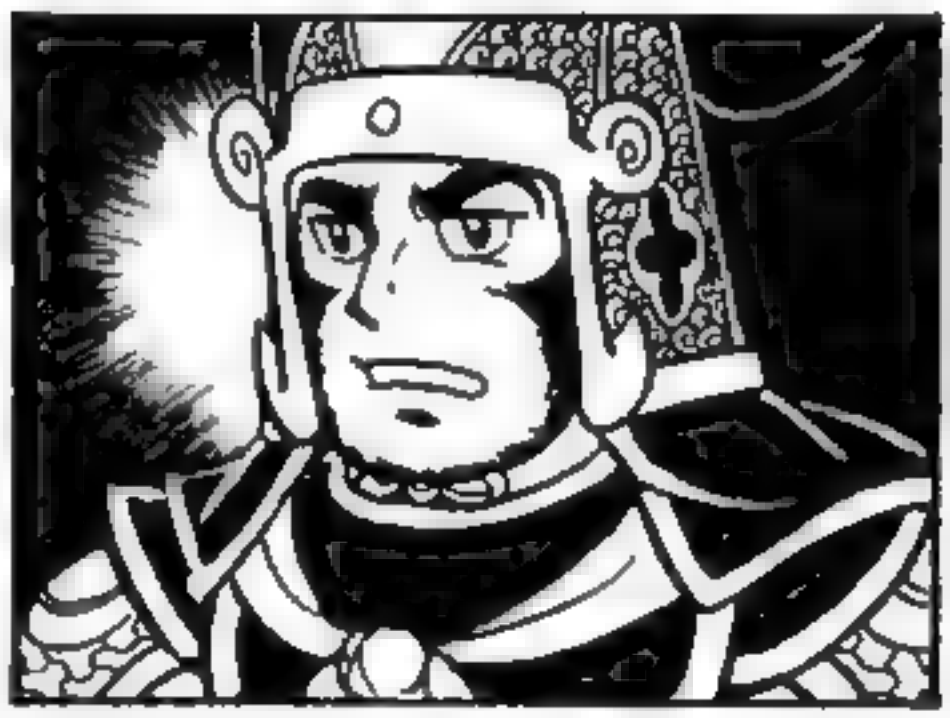
IF YOU WERE TO BECOME FAMILIES WITH HIM, YOU WOULD BECOME A REBEL AS WELL!

LISTEN WELL, LU BU. YUAN SHU IS NOTHING BUT A DELUDED REBEL THAT HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR.

BUT IF YOU SURRENDER NOW AND PROMISE TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS, I SHALL GUARANTEE BOTH YOUR RANK AND LANDS.

SO I HAVE COME TODAY FOR YOUR REPLY!
BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO SURRENDER ONCE WE BEGIN THE SIEGE.

P-PLEASE HOLD ON! I MUST DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH MY MEN FIRST!



MY LORD, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

CAO CAO IS A CUNNING AND DECEPTIVE MAN! JUST HOW CAN YOU TRUST HIS WORDS!?

GIVE ME THAT BOW!

BUT MY LORD SHAN'T BE FOOLED BY YOUR EMPTY PROMISES!

CAO CAO! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN NOTHING BUT A LIAR!

NOW DISAP-PEAR FROM MY SIGHT, YOU DEVIL!

ALL UNITS, ATTACK!

UNFORGIVABLE...! I SHALL SLAUGHTER EVERY SINGLE MAN!

I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT! IT WAS ONE OF MY MEN ACTING WITHOUT ORDERS!

W-WAIT! I SAID, WAIT, CAO CAO!

MY LORD! THIS IS NO TIME TO DISPLAY COWARDICE!

SILENCE! THAT IS ONLY YOUR NARROW-MINDED OPINION!
SIR SHOULD KNOW WELL JUST WHAT KIND OF MAN CAO CAO REALLY IS! IF WE SURRENDER NOW, THEN ALL SHALL BE LOST!

SHUT UP! HOW DARE YOU TALK TO YOUR LORD LIKE THAT!?

ONLY A FOOL WOULD NOT REALIZE HOW PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT THE OFFER IS JUST ANOTHER OF CAO CAO'S TRAPS!

.....

.....

BUT HE...!

CHEN GONG WAS ONLY THINKING OF THE BEST FOR MY LORD!

MY LORD, PLEASE CEASE THIS BICKER-ING AT ONCE!

AND WE CANNOT LET OUR ENEMIES SEE US ARGUE AMONGST OUR-SELVES LIKE THIS.

YOU TOO ...?

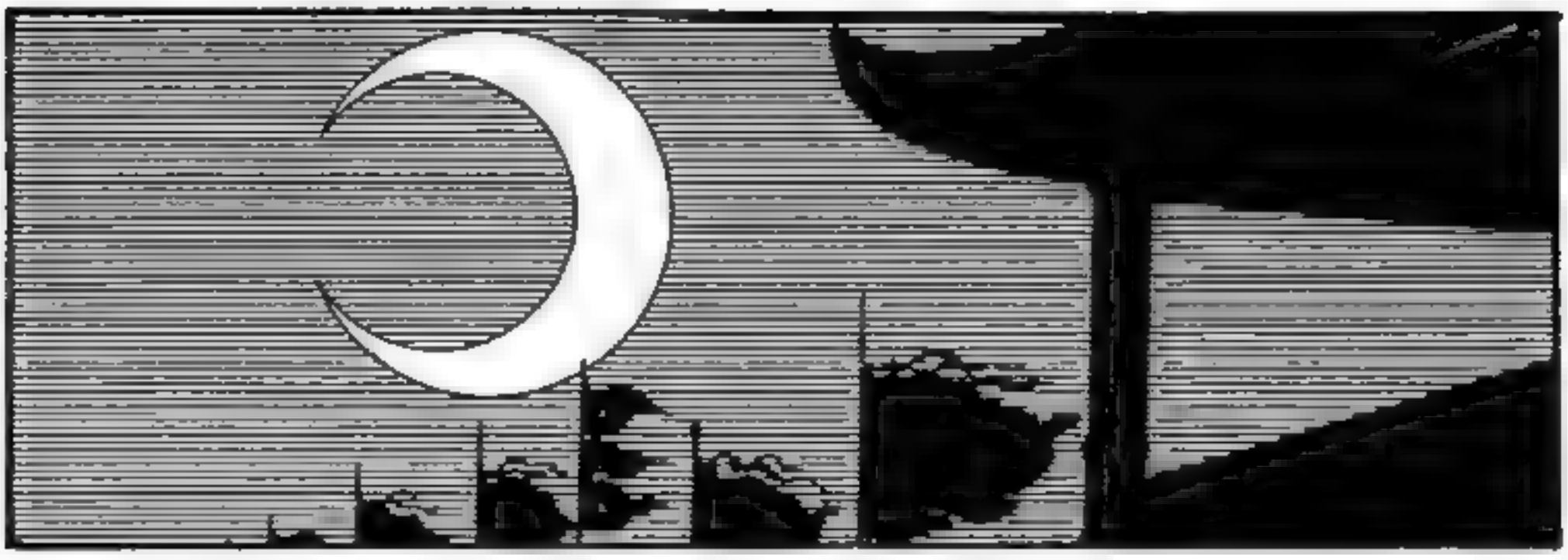
BICKERING AMONGST OURSELVES WILL ONLY WORK TO CAO CAO'S ADVANTAGE, MY LORD. PLEASE RECONSIDER CAREFULLY, SIR.

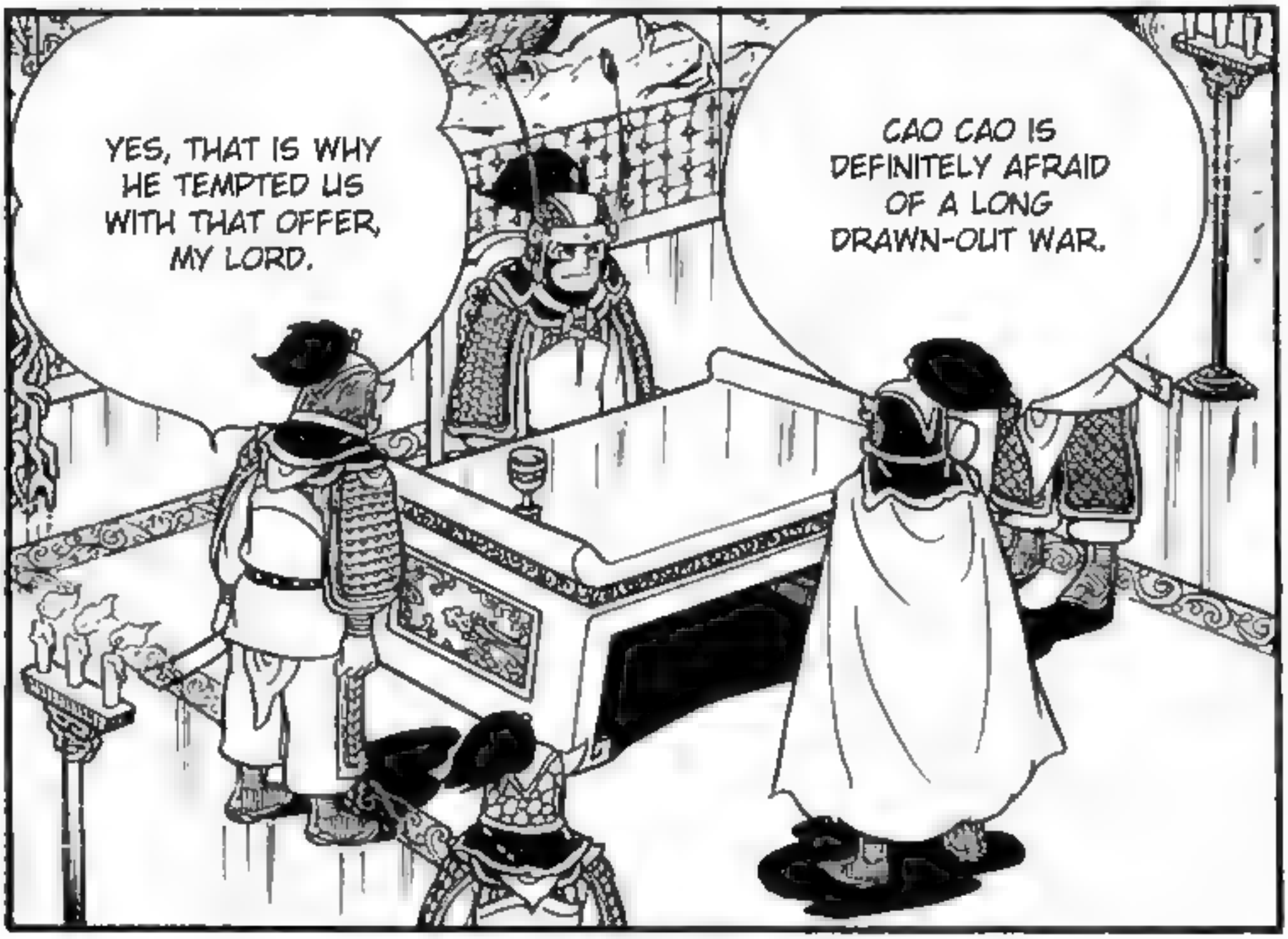
WE ALSO AGREE WITH CHEN GONG'S OPINIONS.

FORGIVE ME, I LOST MY COMPOSURE AND ACTED MUCH TOO RASHLY.

NO, SIR. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MY IMPUDENT ACTIONS.

FORGIVE ME, CHEN GONG.




YES, THAT IS WHY HE TEMPTED US WITH THAT OFFER, MY LORD.
CAO CAO IS DEFINITELY AFRAID OF A LONG DRAWN-OUT WAR.

ONE, IS THAT XUCHANG IS LEFT UNGUARDED.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS AS TO WHY HE WISHES TO AVOID A LONG WAR AT ALL COSTS.

HE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT XUCHANG BEING POSSIBLY ATTACKED BY YUAN SHAO, LIU BIAO, OR ZHANG XIU.

MOREOVER, WINTER IS APPROACHING.

AND ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES WILL BE CUT.

THE COMING SNOWFALL WILL MAKE IT HARD FOR PEOPLE AND HORSES TO TRAVEL.

HMM...

AND SO, THE LONGER THE BATTLE DRAGS OUT, THE WORSE THEIR SITUATION WILL BECOME.

AND HOW EXACTLY CAN WE ACHIEVE THAT?

BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE SHOULD JUST BARRICADE OURSELVES WITHIN THIS CASTLE. WE MUST COME OUT TO ATTACK IN WAYS TO DRAG OUT THE WAR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

DRAGGING THE HORN?

FOR THAT, I SUGGEST THE PLAN OF "DRAGGING THE HORN."

THE NAME COMES FROM THE SAME WAY ONE CATCHES A DEER. THAT IS TO RESTRAIN THE HORN FIRST AND THEN ITS FEET.

THE PLAN OF "DRAGGING THE HORN"?

FIRST, MY LORD MUST HEAD OUTSIDE THE CASTLE.

I SEE. SO HOW IS IT EXACTLY CARRIED OUT?

CAO CAO WILL SURELY TURN AROUND AND GIVE CHASE TO SIR. AND WHILE SIR IS ENGAGING IN BATTLE WITH CAO CAO, I SHALL LEAD A SECOND ARMY OUT FROM THE CASTLE TO ATTACK THEIR REAR.

I SEE... NOT A BAD IDEA.

OF COURSE, IF CAO CAO WERE TO ATTACK US FIRST, THEN MY LORD SHALL ATTACK THE ENEMIES' REAR.

ALRIGHT, WE SHALL CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN AT ONCE. MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.

I AM PREPARING TO GO OUT AND ATTACK CAO CAO'S FORCES OUTSIDE. THE WEATHER IS QUITE COLD THESE DAYS AND I MUST DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

DEAR, JUST WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO, FULLY DRESSED IN THAT ARMOUR?

D-DEAR, ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

GO OUTSIDE THE CASTLE?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT IS BECAUSE I WANT TO PROTECT MY FAMILY THAT I AM GOING OUT TO FIGHT.

DEAR, DO YOU NOT CARE FOR YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER AT ALL?

BUT I MUST. OTHERWISE, WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE DANGER WE ARE CURRENTLY IN.

BUT CAN THE MEN YOU LEAVE BEHIND WHEN YOU GO OUT TO ATTACK BE TRULY TRUSTED?

DIDN'T THE CHENS THAT YOU TRUSTED SO MUCH END UP BETRAYING YOU?

IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME YOU WILL EVER SEE YOUR DAUGHTER AND I.

WHO'S TO SAY THAT THE SAME THING WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...?

I... I UNDER-STAND. I SHALL RETHINK MY DECISION OVER AGAIN.

AS YOU SAY, THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN HINGES UPON THE COOPERATION WITH MY FORCES OUTSIDE THE CASTLE AND MY FORCES INSIDE. A SINGLE DOUBLE-CROSSER MAY VERY WELL BRING OUR RUIN.

AH, CHEN GONG.

MY LORD!

AH, I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT THAT.

THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE. WHEN SHOULD WE BEGIN THE PLAN, MY LORD?

AFTER THINKING IT OVER, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FIGHT A MORE DEFENSIVE WAR.

W-WHAT!?

I HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED A REPORT THAT AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PROVISIONS IS COMING FROM XUCHANG.

HOW LONG DOES MY LORD THINK THAT THIS SMALL CASTLE CAN HOLD OUT FOR...?

WE MUST MAKE CAO CAO'S FORCES FACE THE HARSH WINTER WITH LITTLE FOOD AT ALL COSTS! IF WE CAN INTERCEPT THAT FOOD CONVOY, WE SHALL DELIVER OUR ENEMIES A CRITICAL BLOW!

T-THAT'S ENOUGH, CHEN GONG! I HAVE MY OWN OPINIONS OF HOW BEST TO HANDLE CAO CAO'S FORCES!

I BEG OF YOU, MY LORD! WE MUST NOT LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

OUR FATES HAVE BEEN SEALED...

MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

WE HAVE SOMETHING TO URGENTLY DISCUSS WITH SIR.

AH, XU SI AND WANG KAI. WHAT IS IT?

AT THIS RATE, NOT EVEN A SINGLE ANT WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE XIAPI.

CAO CAO AND LIU BEI HAVE SET UP BASES AROUND XIAPI TO COMPLETELY ENCIRCLE US WITHIN.

YUAN SHU?

AND SO WE BELIEVE THAT ASKING YUAN SHU FOR HELP IS THE BEST CHANCE WE HAVE FOR VICTORY.

HMM... TRUE, HE HAS NOT YET TURNED DOWN THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL...

BUT WITH OUR CURRENT SITUATION, SENDING FORTH A MESSENGER WILL BE DIFFICULT...

YUAN SHU WILL STILL BE SURE TO DESIRE AN ALLI-ANCE WITH SIR.

THE MARRIAGE PRO-POSAL BETWEEN SIR'S DAUGHTER AND YUAN SHU'S SON HAS COME TO A STANDSTILL BUT HAS YET TO BE FULLY TURNED DOWN.

IS THAT SO?

WITH XIAPI IN CRITICAL DANGER, WE ARE MORE THAN READY TO RISK OUR LIVES TO DEFEND IT.

ON THAT POINT, WE BELIEVE WE COULD TAKE THAT ARDUOUS TASK, MY LORD.

BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES AND MAKE YOUR WAY TO HUAINAN TONIGHT
I SHALL GIVE 500 SOLDIERS TO TAKE WITH YOU.

ALRIGHT THEN.

MEN, WE MUST MAKE IT TO HUAINAN NO MATTER WHAT!

NOW!

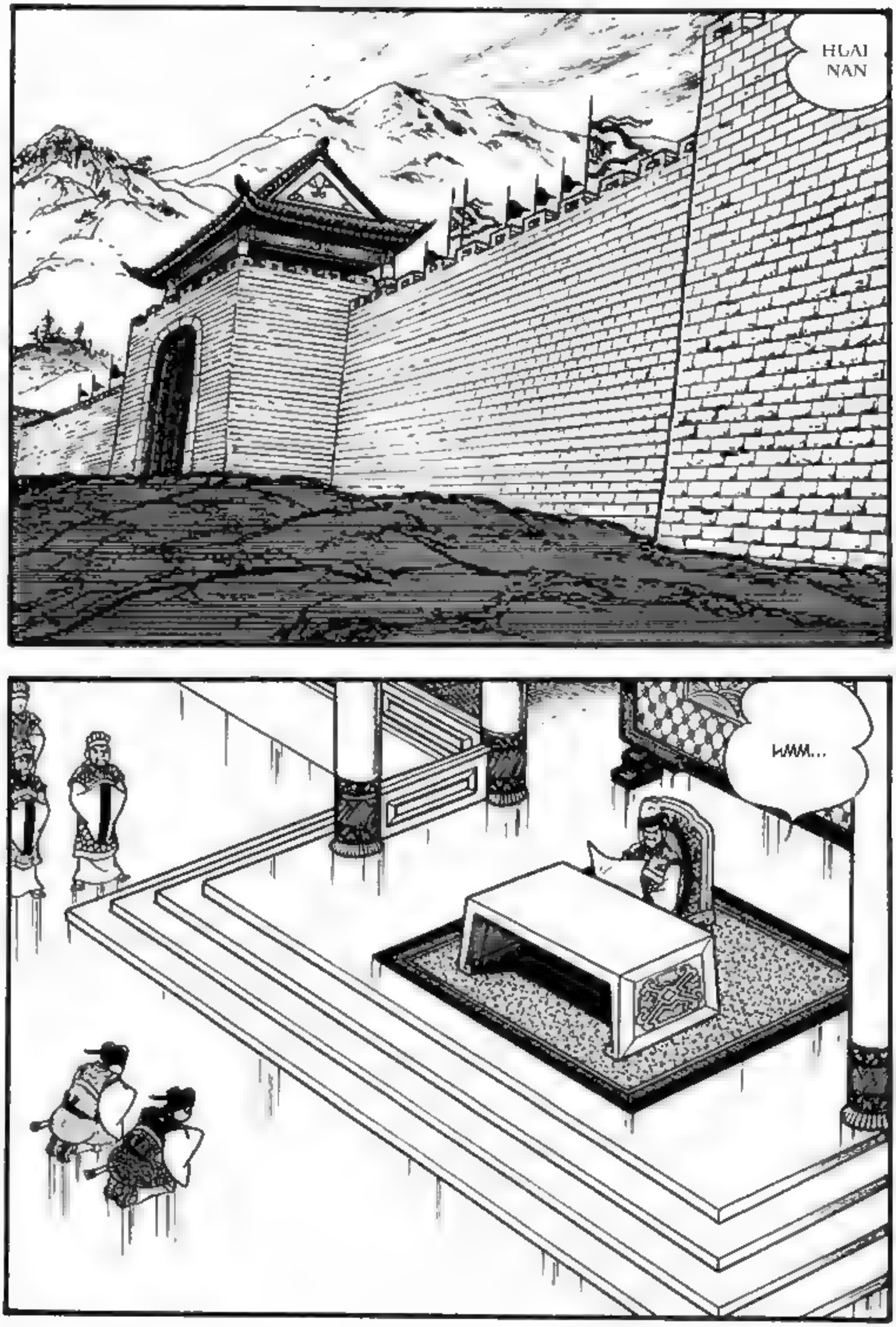
HALT! REVEAL YOUR-SELVES!

HMM?

AGHH!

?
IF IT WERE AN ENEMY RAID, THEN WHY DIDN'T THEY STOP AND ATTACK US?

WAS THAT AN ENEMY RAID OR NOT?


HUAI
NAN
WWW...

LU BU WOULD MAKE FOR A POWERFUL ALLY...

MARRYING HIS DAUGHTER TO MY SON, I SEE...

BUT I CANNOT TRUST HIM ENTIRELY YET.

WE SHALL TELL HIM THUS RIGHT AWAY.

YES, SIRE.

TELL HIM ONCE AGAIN THAT I WILL MOBILIZE MY ARMY TO HELP HIM ONLY AFTER HE SENDS HIS DAUGHTER.

I'VE LOOKED INTO IT, BUT NONE OF LU BU'S ARMIES CAME OUT AND RETURNED BACK INSIDE XIAPI THAT NIGHT.
HAVE YOU FOUND OUT THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS TROOPS THAT SNUCK PAST OUR ENCAMPMENTS A FEW DAYS AGO?
I DON'T KNOW BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT IT WAS NO ENEMY RAID FOR THEY DID NOT TRY TO FIGHT AT ALL.
THEN JUST WHO EXACTLY WERE THEY?

THEN WHY DIDN'T THEY SHOOT A SINGLE ARROW OR SET FIRE TO OUR CAMPS?

WELL, WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY WEREN'T ON OUR SIDE, SO THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE ENEMIES.

I AGREE WITH WHAT GUAN YU SAYS.

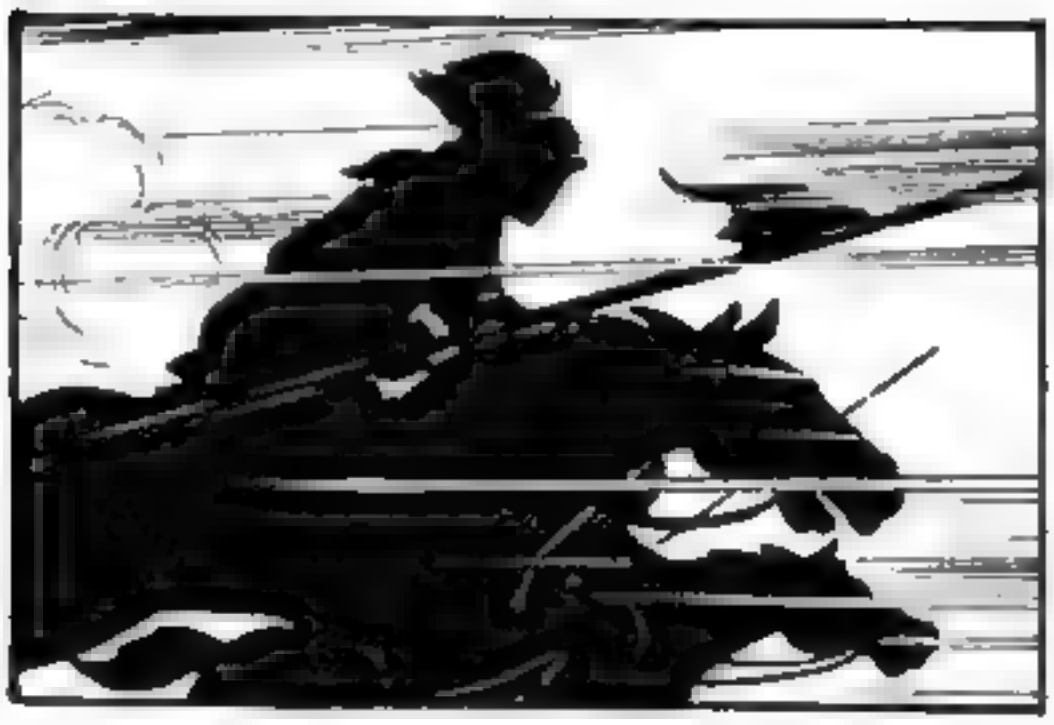
YES.

NO, THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY SO. LU BU WOULD NOT JUST BARRICADE HIMSELF INSIDE XIAPI AND DO NOTHING WHEN WE HAVE HIM COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. I'M SURE HE'S UP TO SOMETHING AND THOSE MYSTERIOUS ENEMIES WERE PART OF HIS PLAN.

YES, BROTHER.

FOR THE TIME BEING, TIGHTEN THE SECURITY FOR THE NIGHT WATCH STARTING TONIGHT.

ALRIGHT, MEN. WE'LL BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES JUST LIKE BEFORE.



NOW!

WHAT?
SIR! A CAVALRY UNIT HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED!

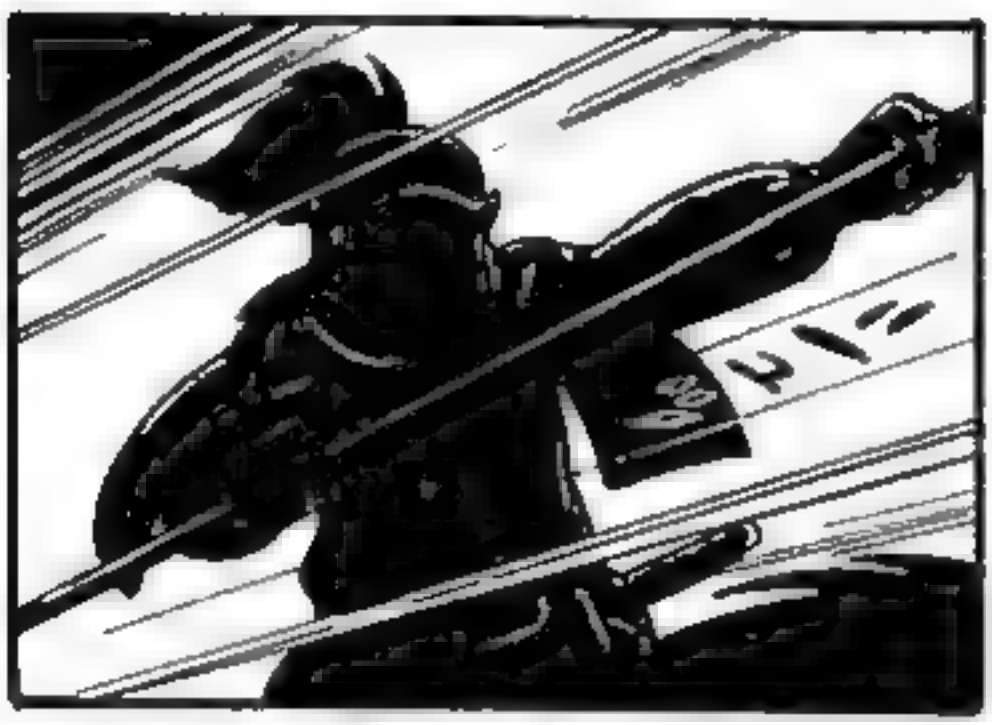
HMM?

DON'T LET THEM PASS! BLOCK THEIR ROUTE!

HMM!?

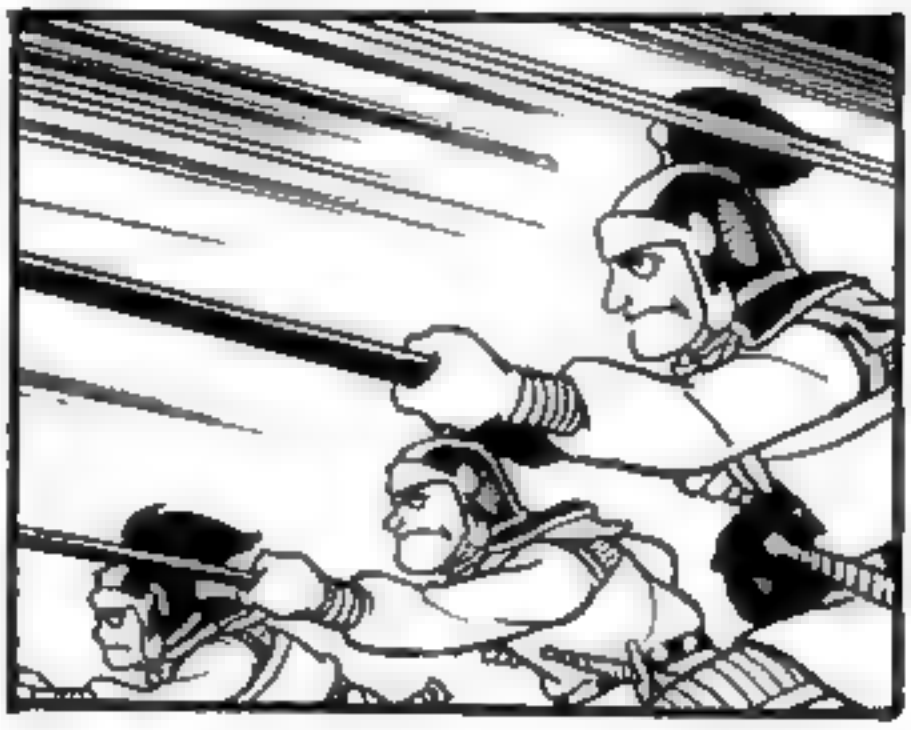
STOP RIGHT THERE AND REVEAL YOUR-SELVES!

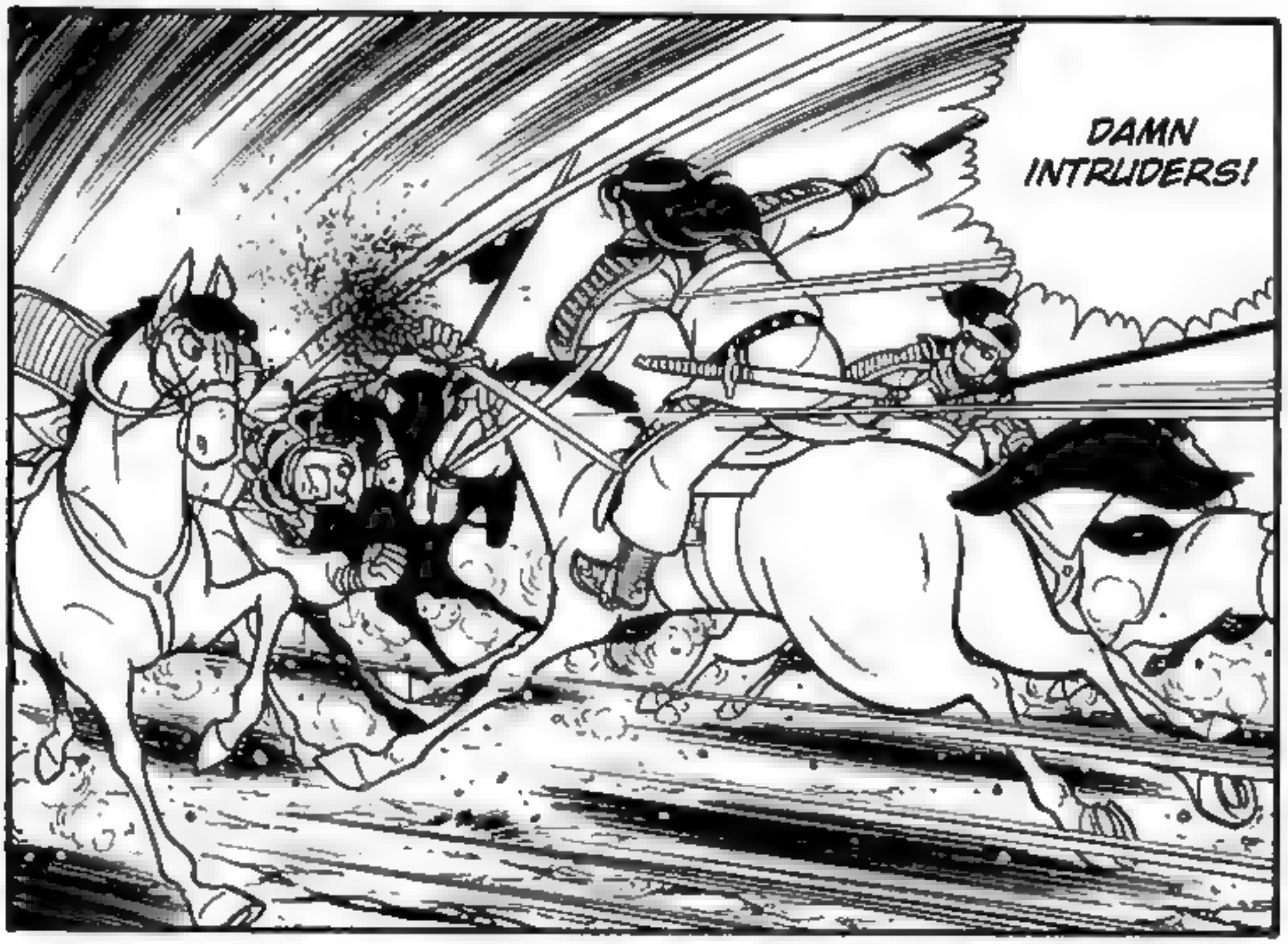
HARD OF HEARING, EH?

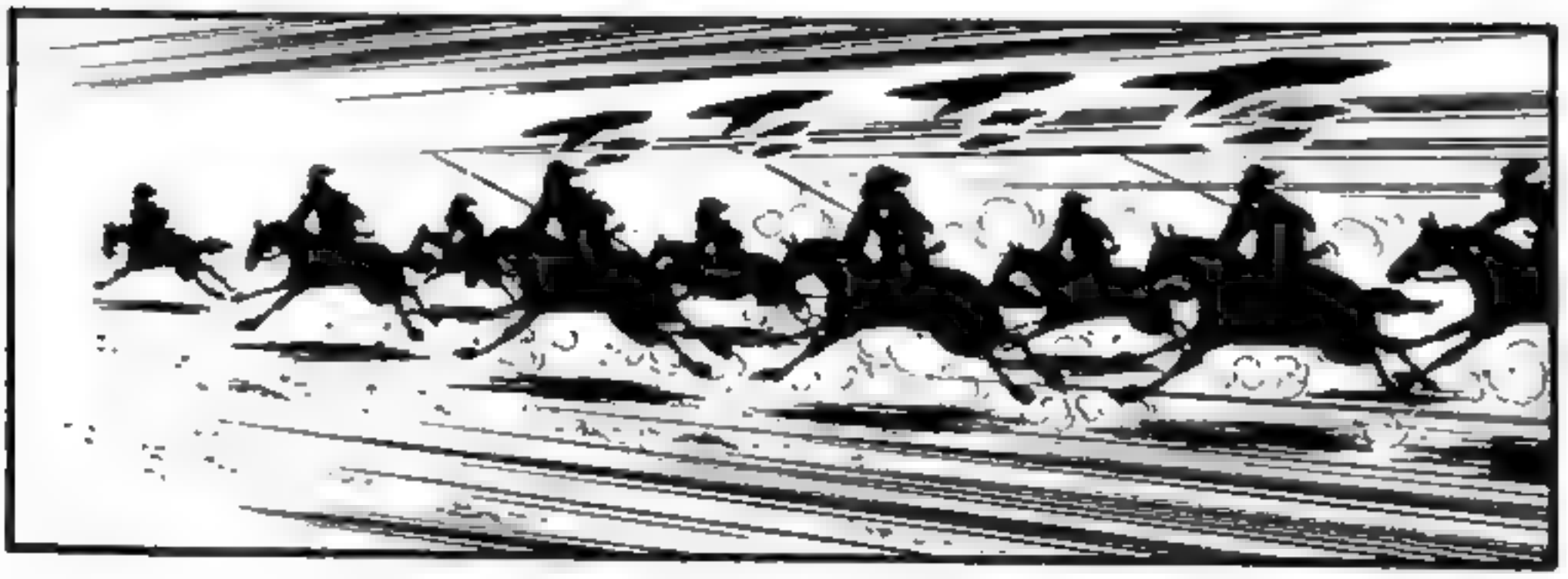


THEY'RE ENEMIES! DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE ESCAPE!

AGHH!




DAMN INTRUDERS!



SIR!

FAST LITTLE BUGGERS, AREN'T THEY...

WE CAUGHT ONE OF THEM ALIVE!

YOU MAY TORTURE HIM AS YOU WISH.

ALRIGHT, TAKE HIM AWAY AND FIND OUT WHAT HE AND THE OTHERS WERE DOING TONIGHT!

GOOD...

DRAG HIM OVER HERE!

AH, WHAT IS IT, ZHANG FEI?

BROTHER!

THIS FELLOW JUST COUGHED IT ALL UP.

WHAT!

I'VE FOUND OUT LU BU'S PLAN.

FELLOW?

?

ACCORDING TO THIS ENEMY SOLDIER WE JUST CAUGHT, LU BU IS TRYING TO MARRY OFF HIS DAUGHTER TO YUAN SHU'S SON .

WE CAUGHT THIS ONE AS THEY WERE COMING BACK.

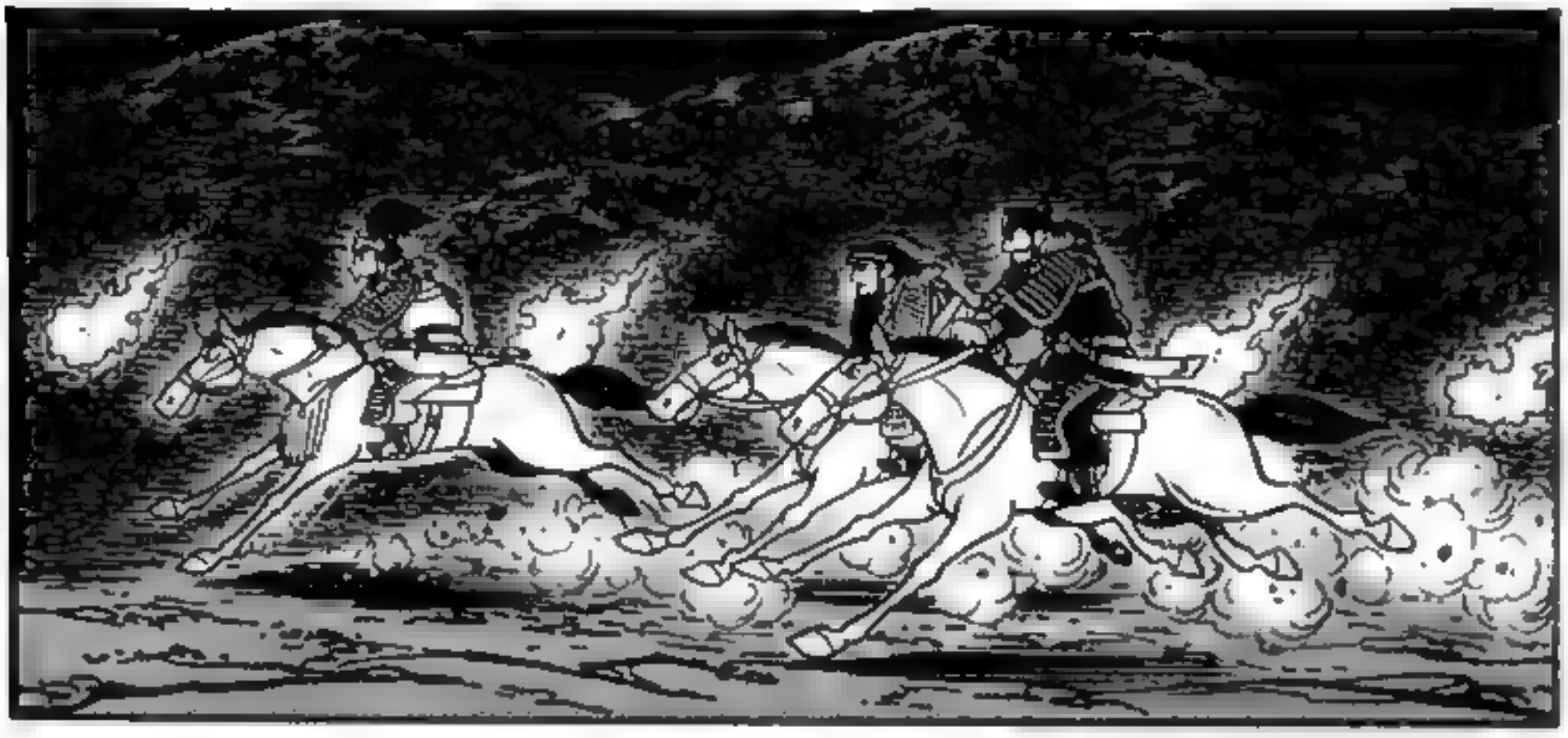
THOSE ENEMIES THAT PASSED BY US A COUPLE DAYS AGO WERE THEM MAKING THEIR WAY OUT OF XIAPI TO HEAD TO HUAINAN.

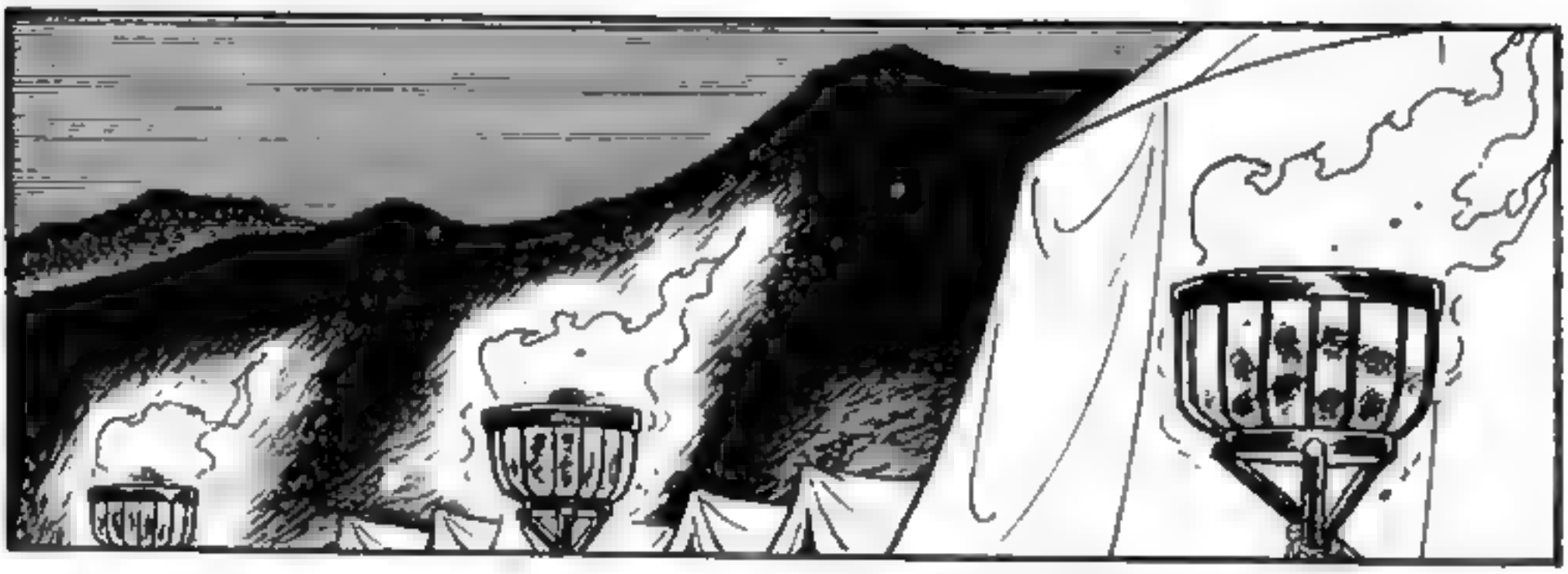
WELL, ACCORDING TO OUR PRISONER HERE, YUAN SHU DEMANDED THAT LU BU SEND HIS DAUGHTER OVER TO HUAINAN FIRST.

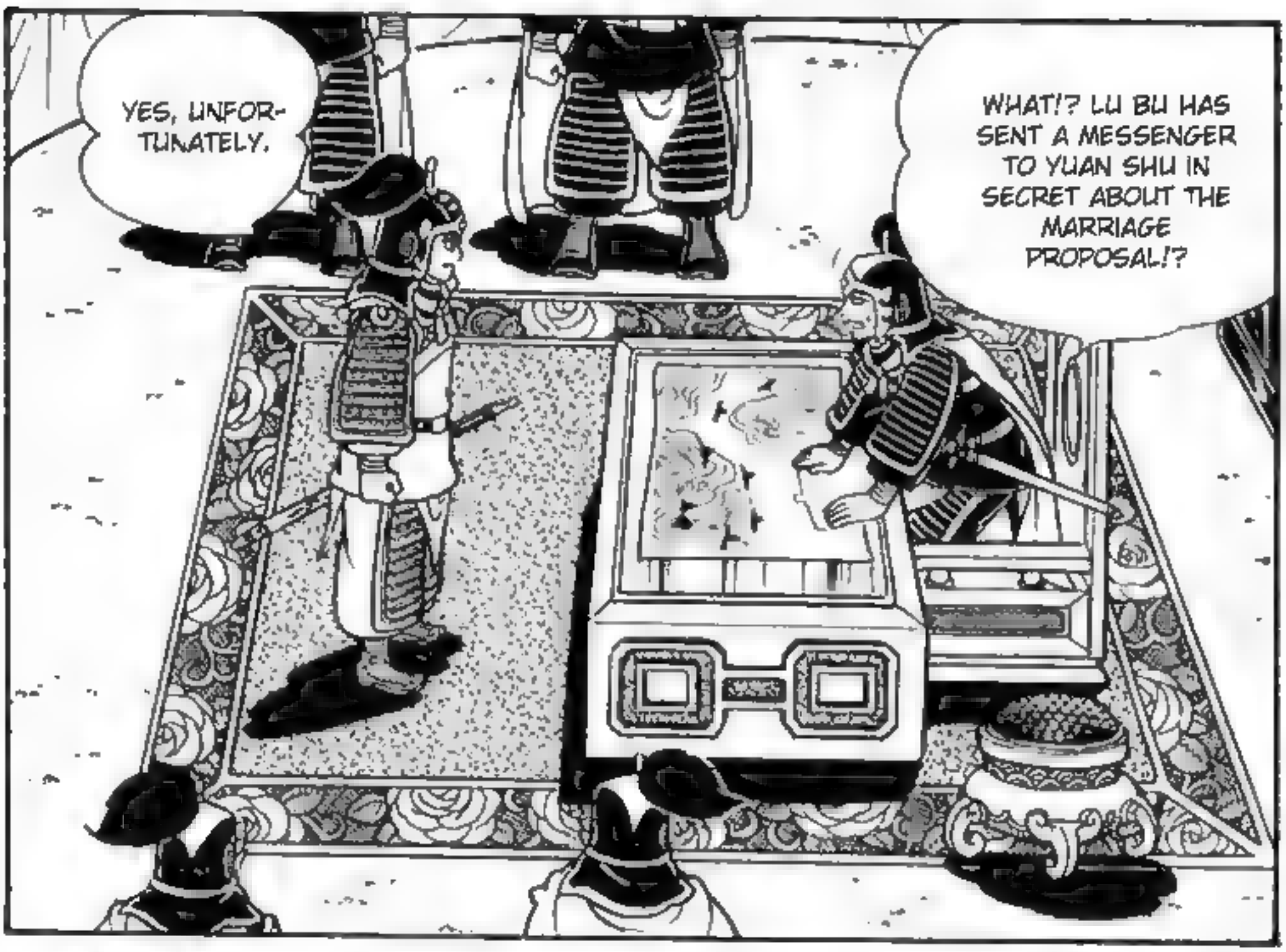
SO HOW DID YUAN SHU REPLY?

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MATTER. CHANCELLOR CAO CAO MUST ALSO BE INFORMED.

IF THAT HAPPENS, YUAN SHU WILL BE SURE TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS AT ONCE.
AHH!






YES, UNFOR-
TUNATELY.
WHAT!? LU BU HAS SENT A MESSENGER TO YUAN SHU IN SECRET ABOUT THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL!?

THE PRISONER WE CAUGHT SAID THAT YUAN SHU DEMANDED LU BU'S DAUGHTER TO BE SENT OVER TO HUAINAN FIRST.

AND DO YOU KNOW OF YUAN SHU'S RESPONSE?

PRESUMABLY.

AND ONLY AFTER THAT, YUAN SHU WILL SEND OVER REINFORCEMENTS?

AND WE MUST PREVENT THEIR ALLIANCE FROM FORMING AT ALL COSTS.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW LU BU'S DAUGHTER TO BE SENT TO HUAINAN.

THIS IS BAD NEWS INDEED ...

YES, SIR.

TIGHTEN THE SECURITY AT ALL CHECKPOINTS AND ALERT EVERY SOLDIER TO BE ON GUARD NO MATTER THE TIME OF DAY.

AH, THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TRIP TO HUIANAN AND BACK. NOW, WHAT OF YUAN SHU'S REPLY?

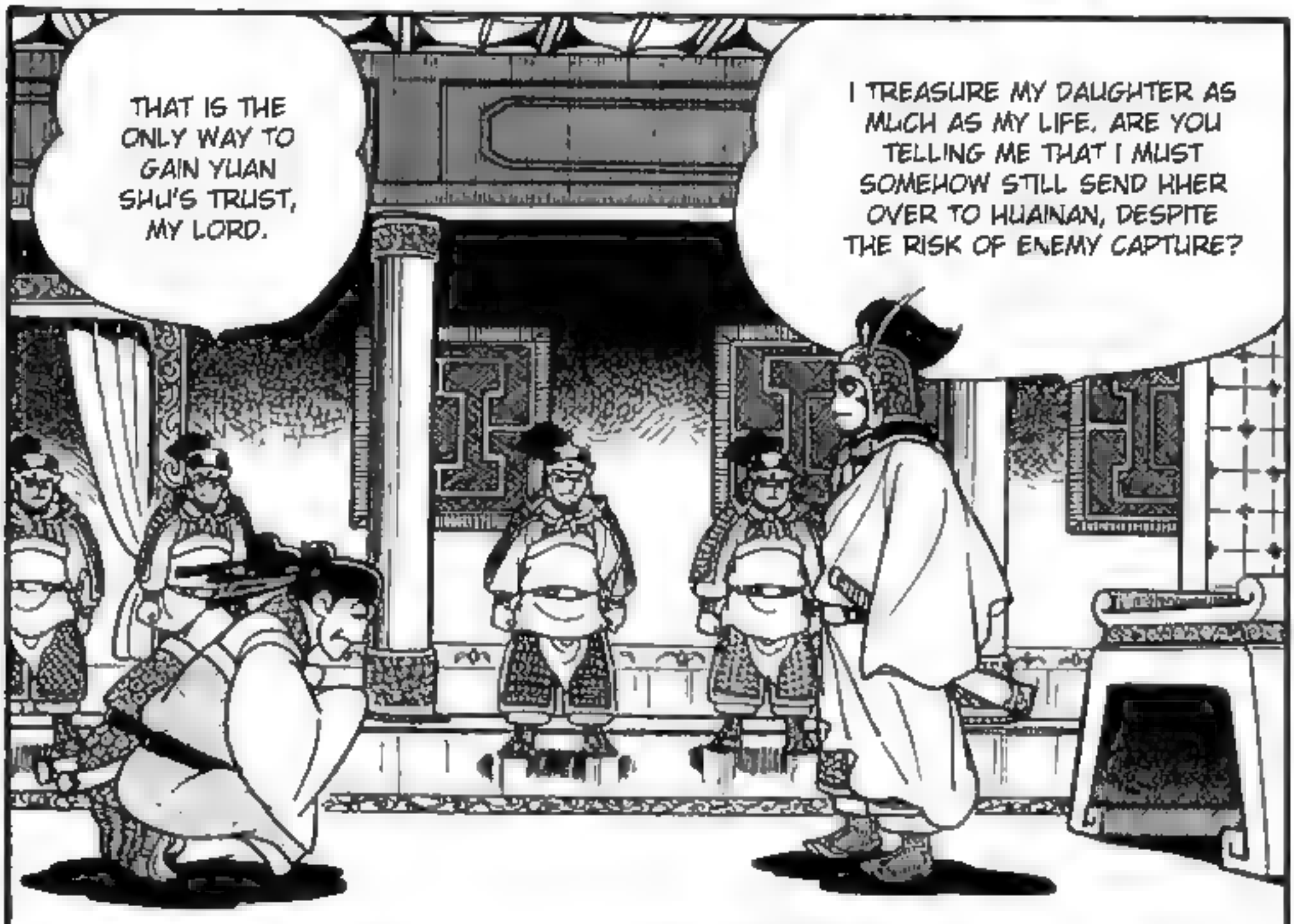
HE STILL HAS SUSPICIONS ABOUT MY LORD AND THUS DEMANDED ONCE AGAIN THAT SIR'S DAUGHTER BE SENT OVER TO HUAINAN FIRST.

BUT WITH THE ENEMIES COMPLETELY SURROUNDING US, HOW CAN I EVEN TRY TO SEND MY DAUGHTER?

AS I THOUGHT ...

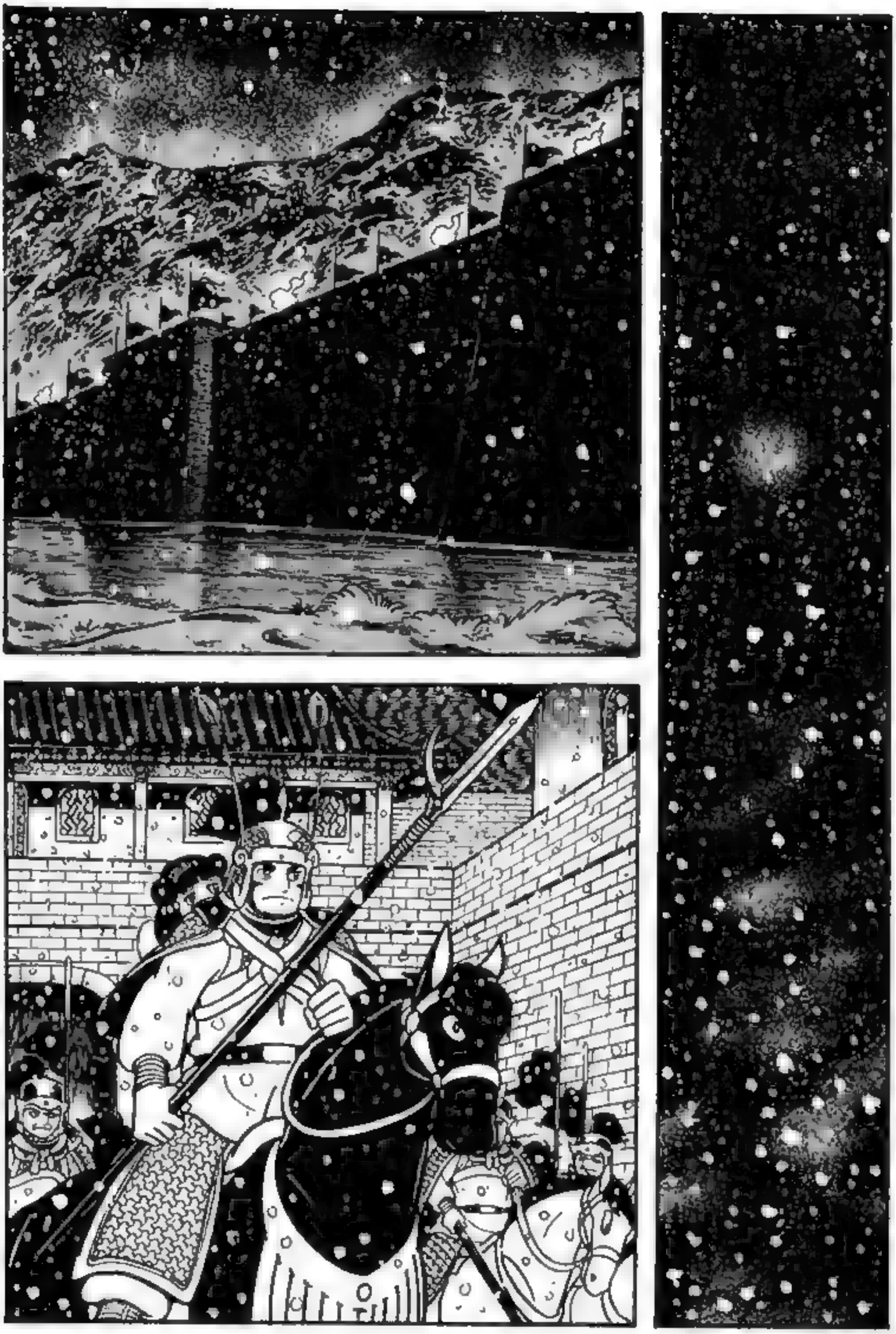
MNN...

I AM AFRAID TO SAY THAT WE, TOO, HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS OF HOW TO DO THAT, MY LORD.


THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN YUAN SHU'S TRUST, MY LORD.
I TREASURE MY DAUGHTER AS MUCH AS MY LIFE. ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT I MUST SOMEHOW STILL SEND HER OVER TO HUAINAN, DESPITE THE RISK OF ENEMY CAPTURE?

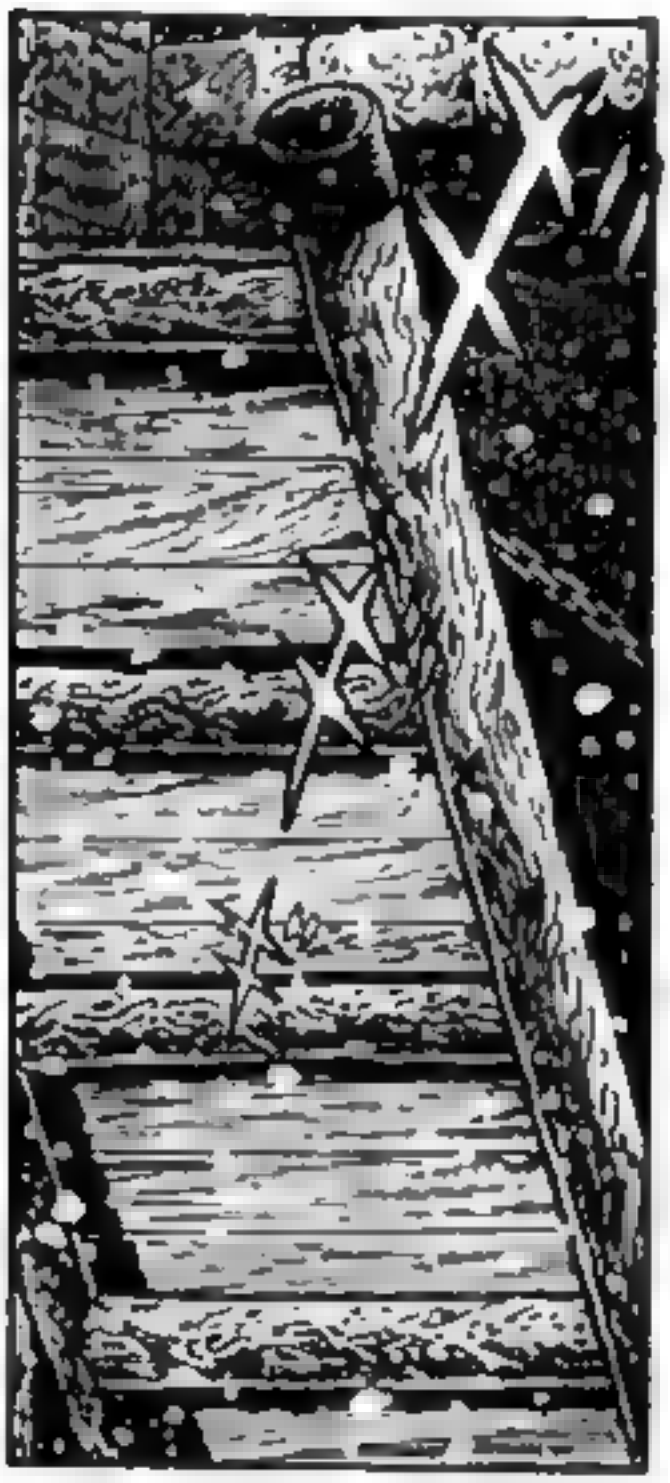
FINE... IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PERSONALLY ESCORT MY DAUGHTER UP UNTIL XUZHOU'S BORDERS.

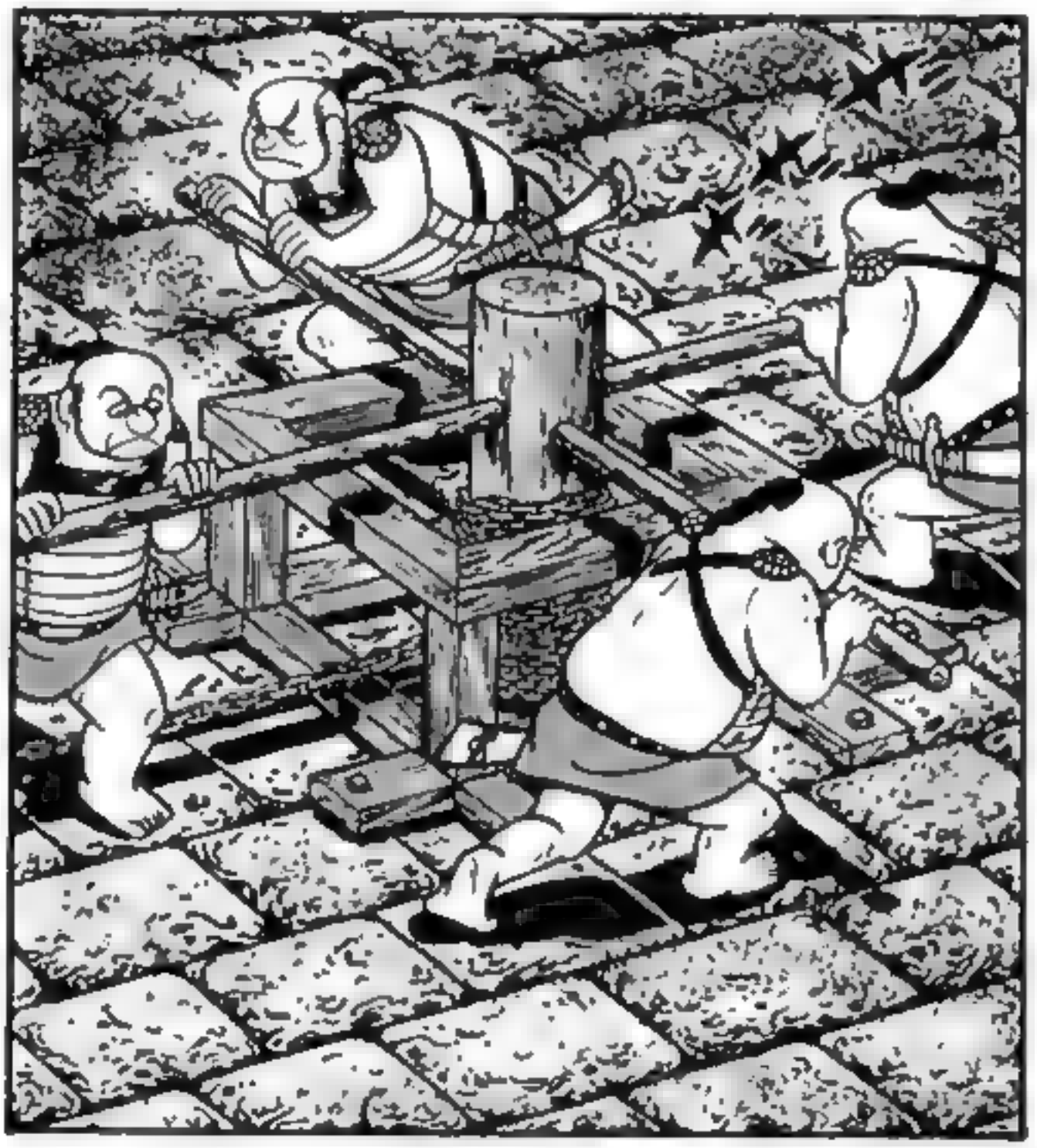
MNN...



LOWER THE DRAW-BRIDGE!

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR, MY DAUGHTER. YOUR FATHER WILL PROTECT YOU.





NOW!

AH!

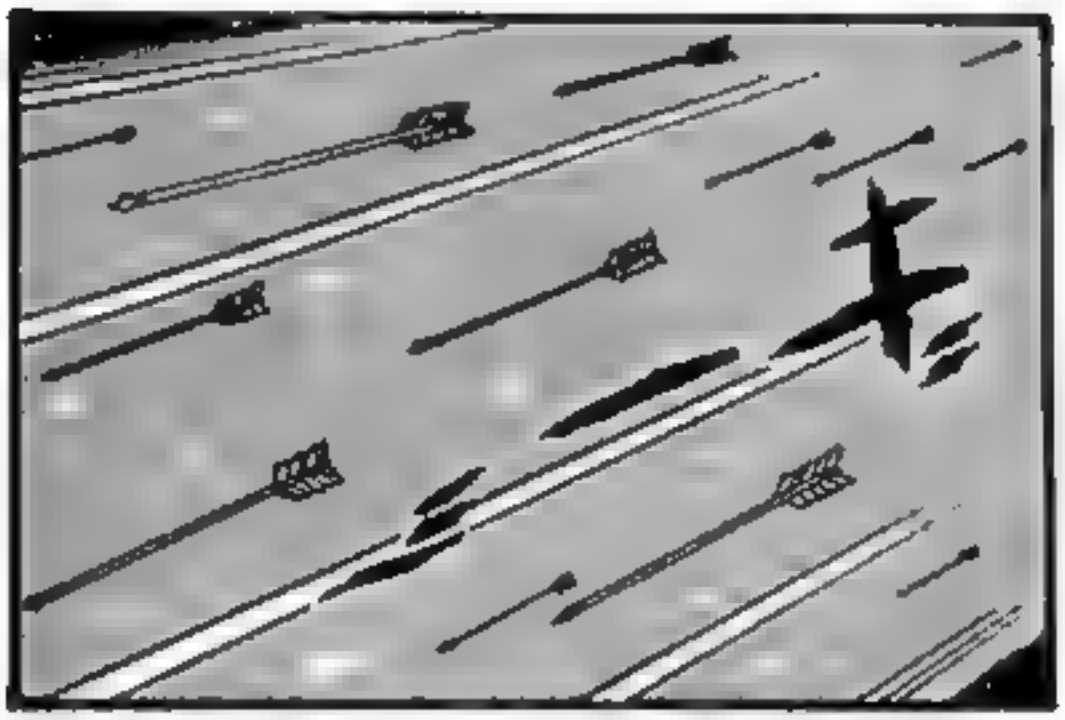
CURSES! IT'S GUAN YU!

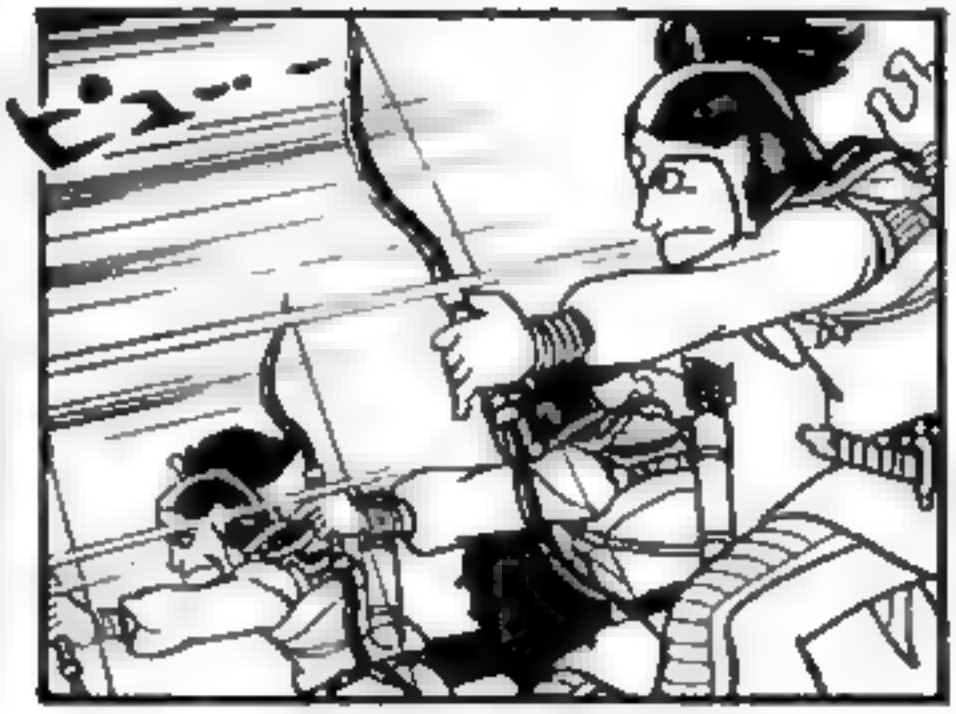
YOU TROOPS BEFORE ME, REVEAL YOUR-SELVES OR YOU SHALL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME, GUAN YU!

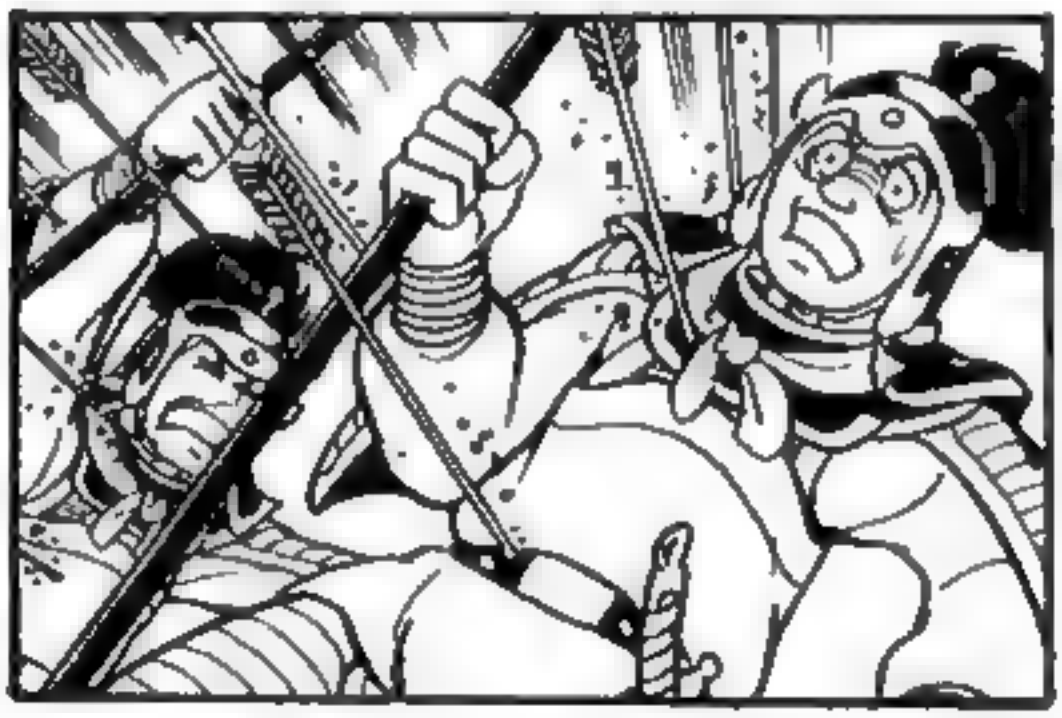
BREAK THROUGH THEIR LINES!

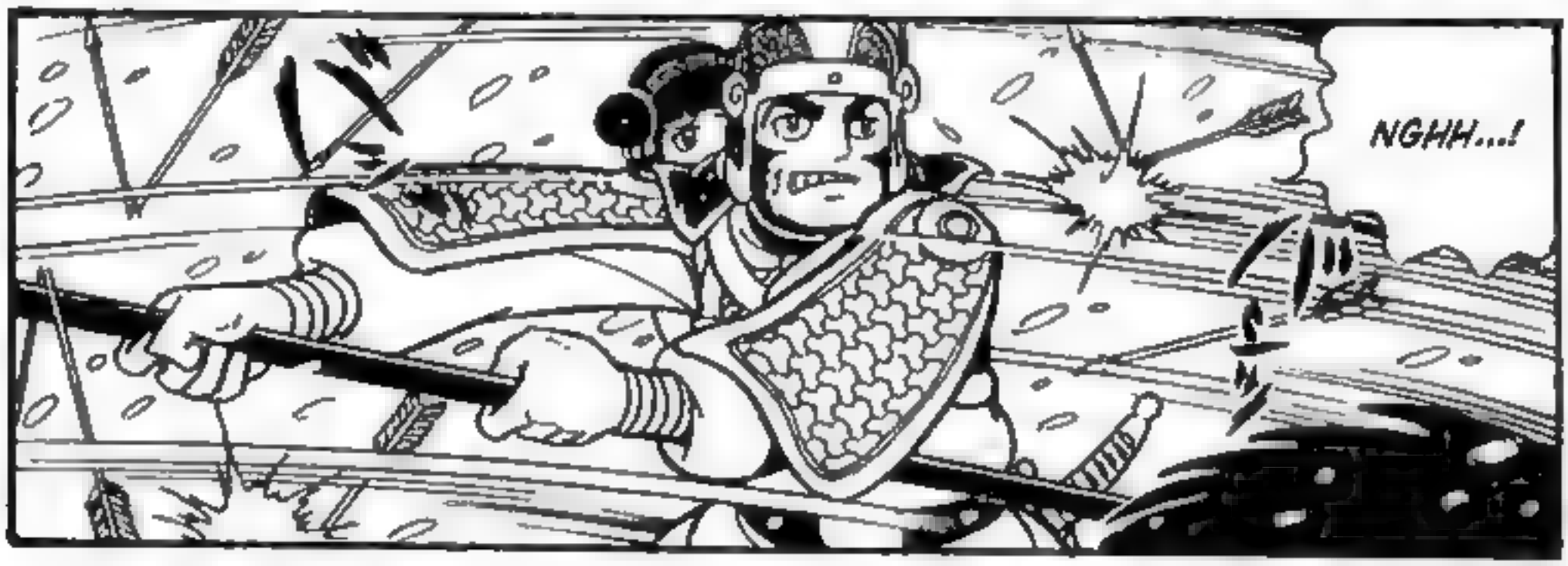
FIRE!

NOT STOPPING? THEN THEY MUST BE ENEMIES!





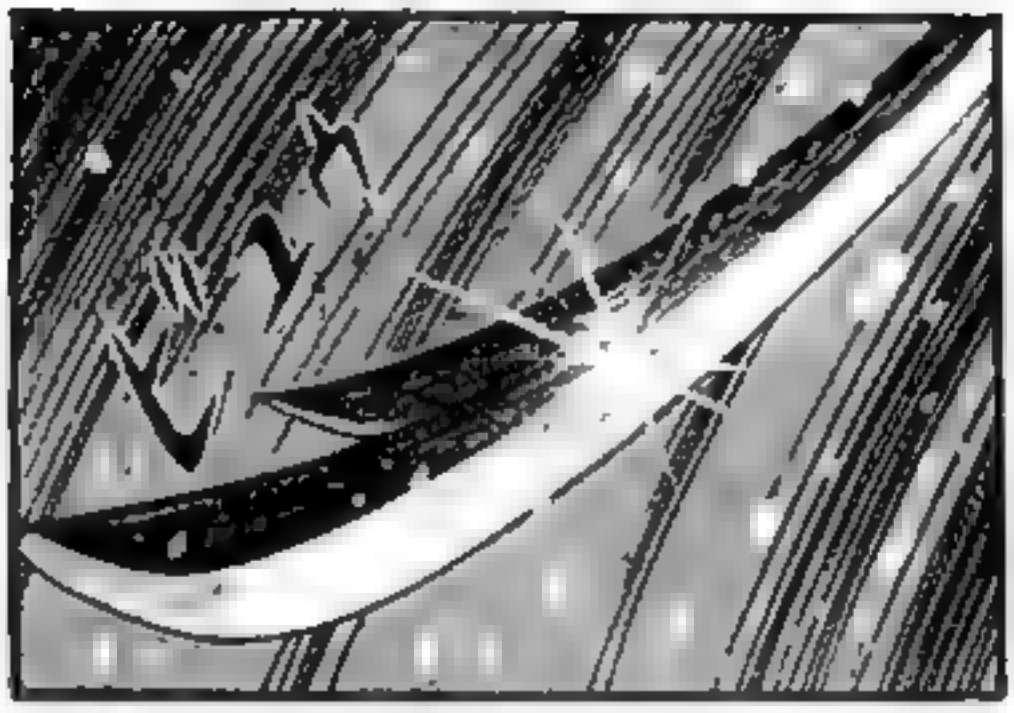


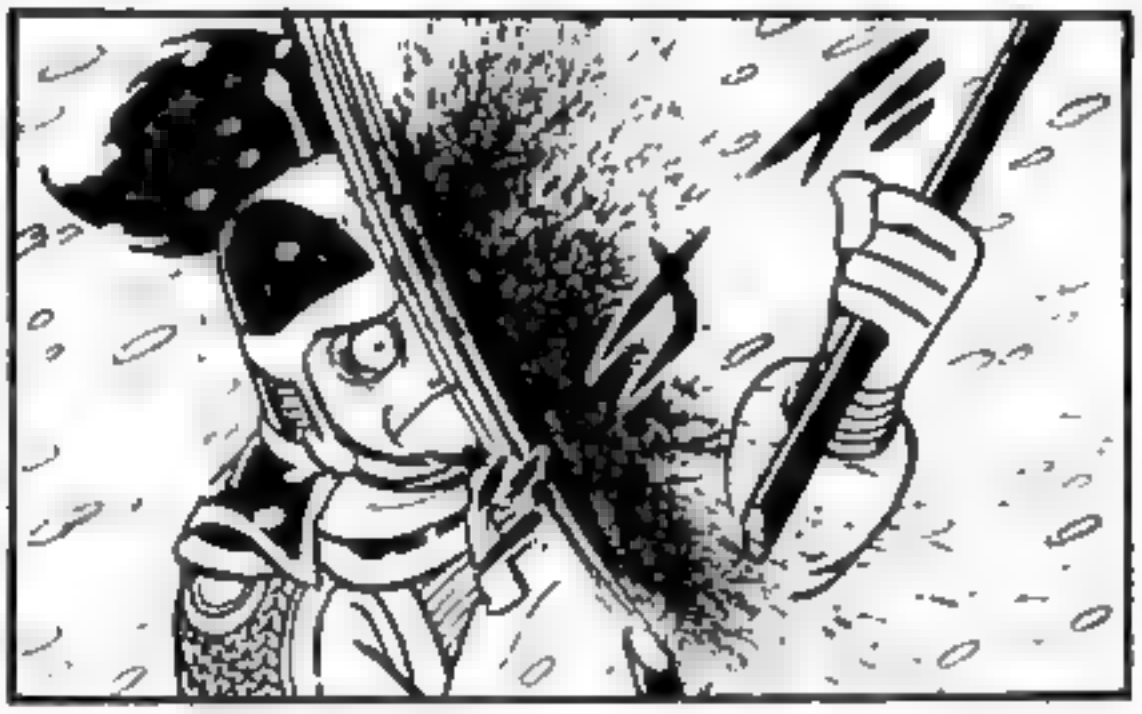

NGHH...!

IT'LL BE FINE, FATHER SHALL PROTECT YOU FROM ANY HARM.

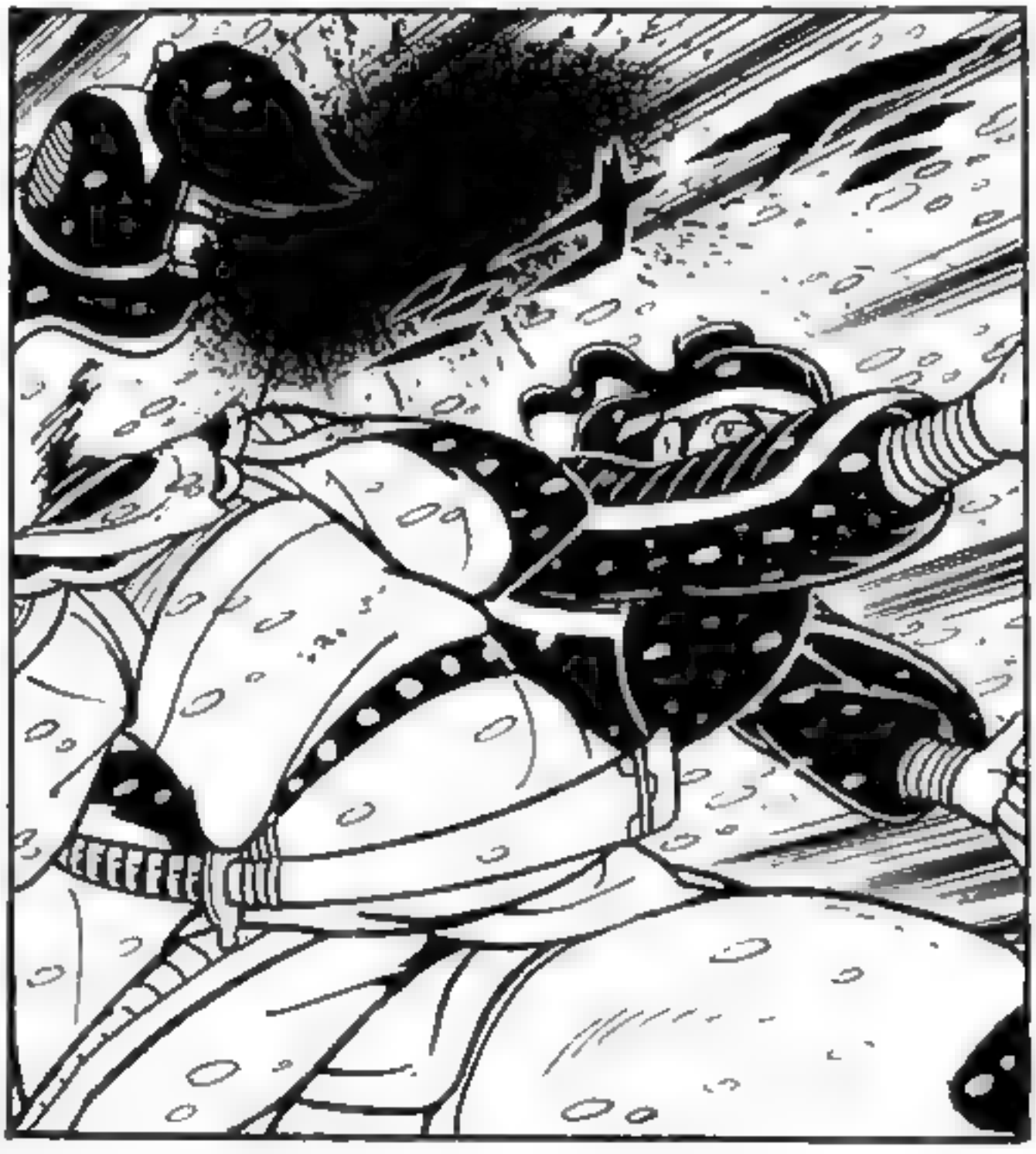
FATHER, I'M SCARED ...!

DO NOT
LET THEM
ESCAPE!

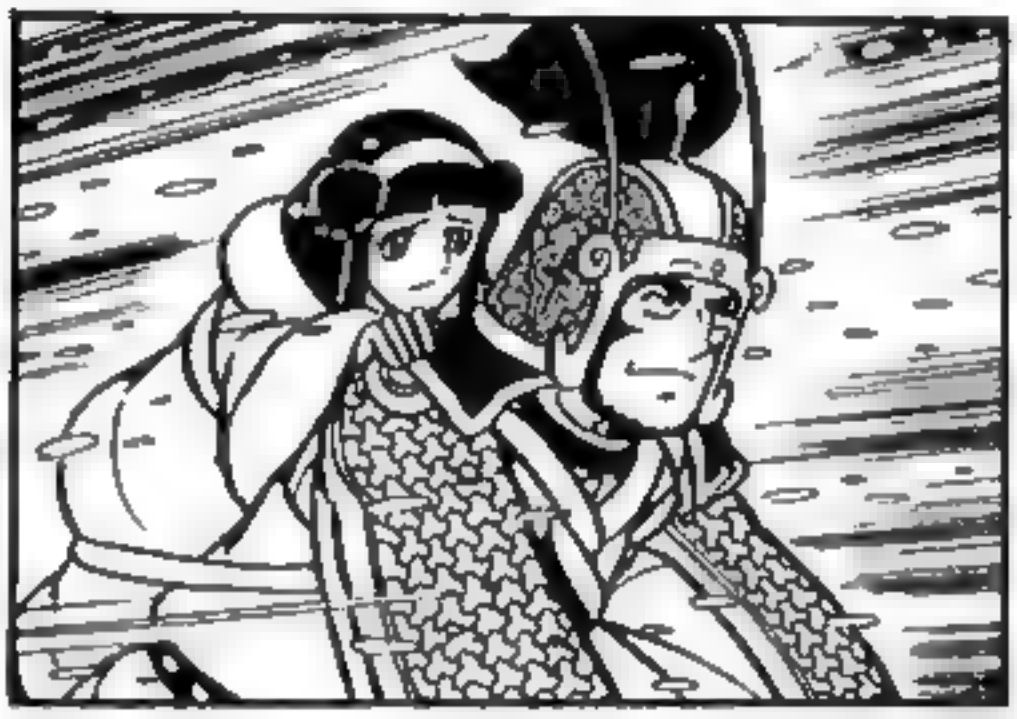




HMM!?



IT'S LU BU!



AH!
STOP RIGHT THERE, LU BU!

BUT I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT. IT'S TIME TO SETTLE THIS!

I SEE, SO YOU WERE TRYING TO SEND YOUR DAUGHTER TO HUAINAN.

OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE TO RUN ACROSS NOW...

RETREAT! RETREAT!

AS FRUSTRATING AS IT MAY BE, I MUST PULL BACK...

I CANNOT FIGHT AND RISK BRINGING HARM TO MY DAUGHTER...

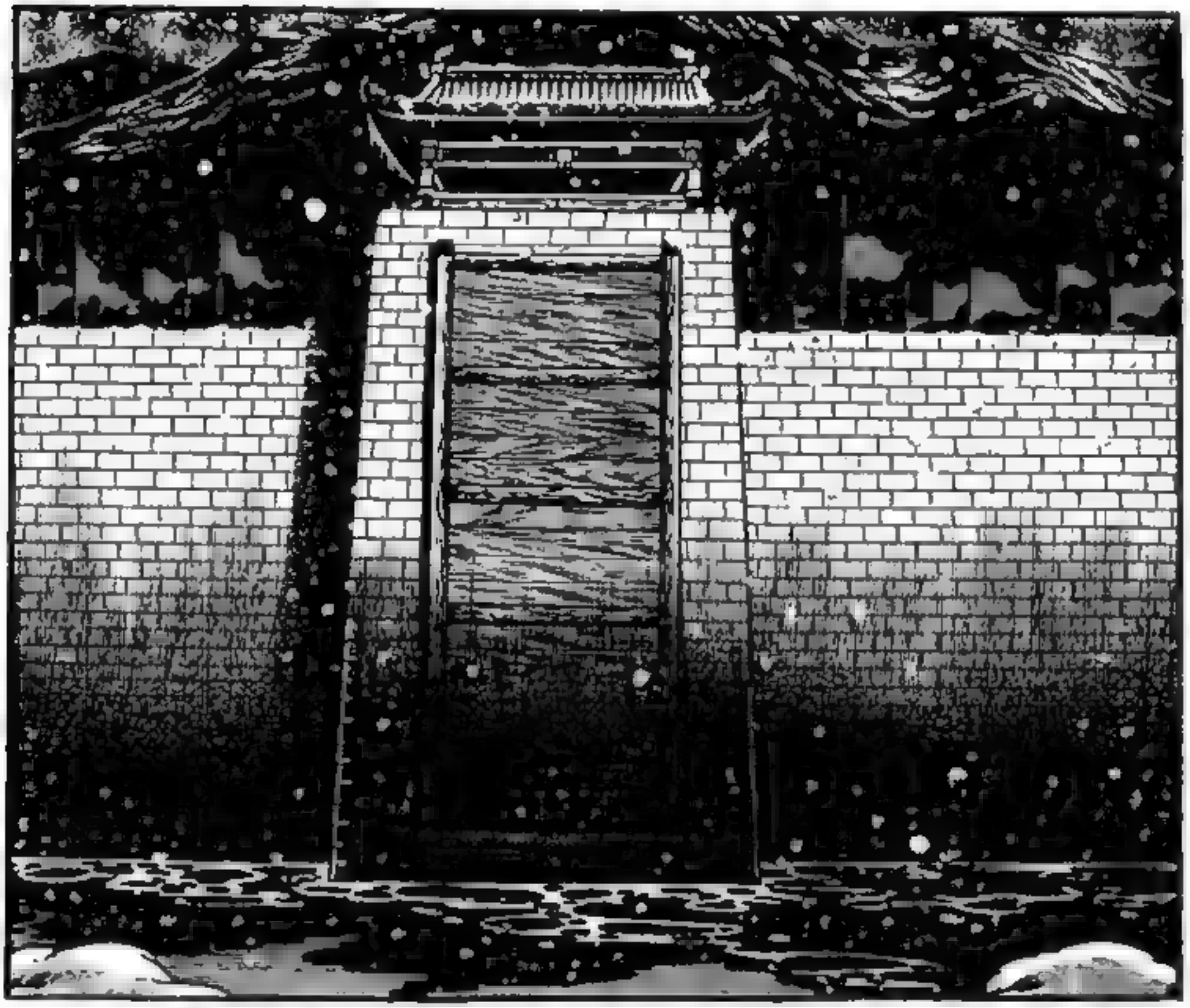
HOW CAN I FIGHT WHILE CARRYING MY DAUGH-TER!?

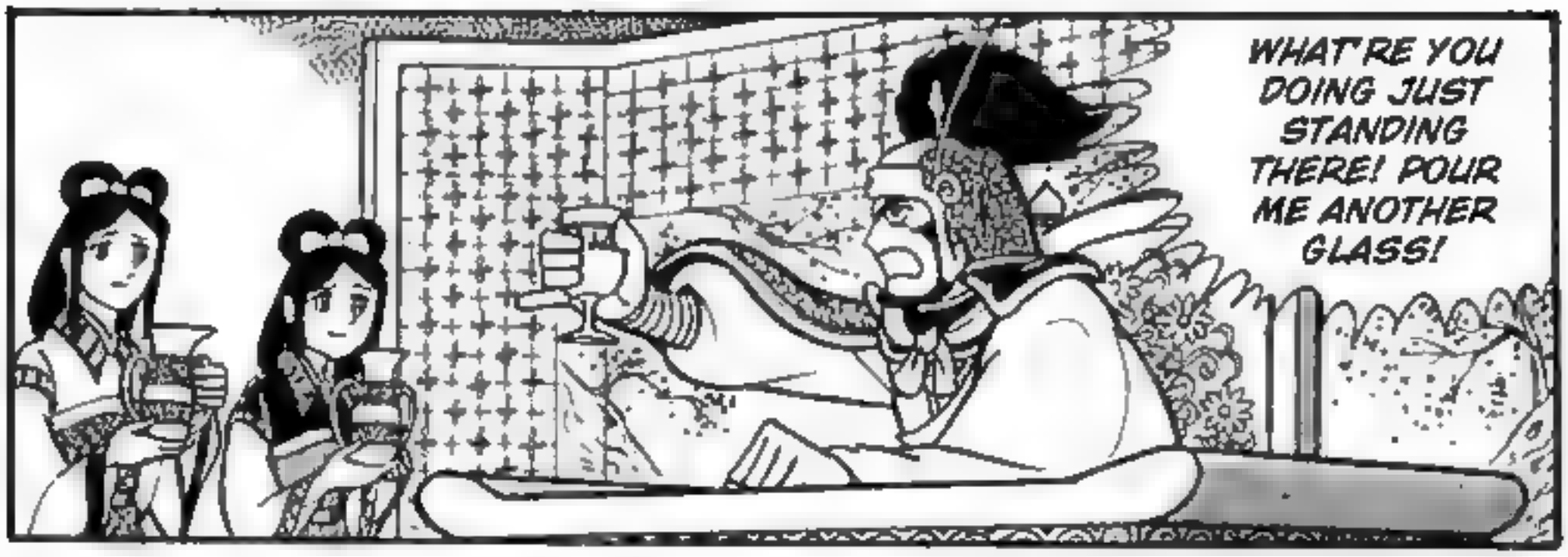
RUNNING AWAY!? I SAID FIGHT ME, LU BU!

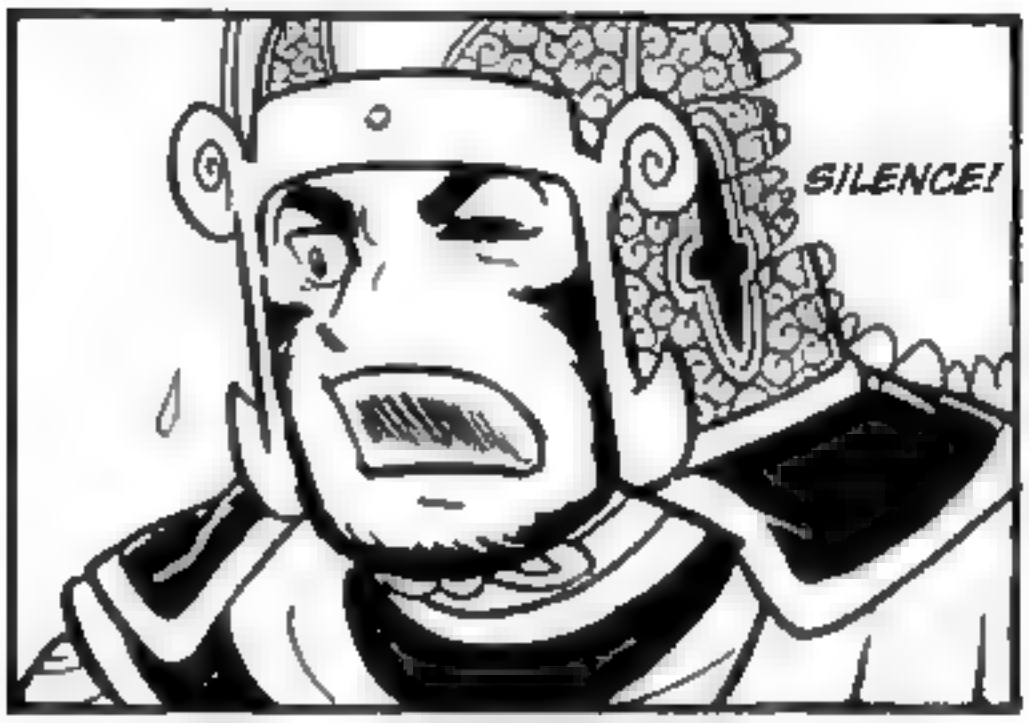
STOP THEM!

DAMN THAT RED HARE OF HIS! I CANNOT KEEP UP AT ALL...
HE SHOULD REALIZE THAT AN ALLIANCE WITH YUAN SHU NOW IS IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DROVE HIM BACK INTO XIAPI.

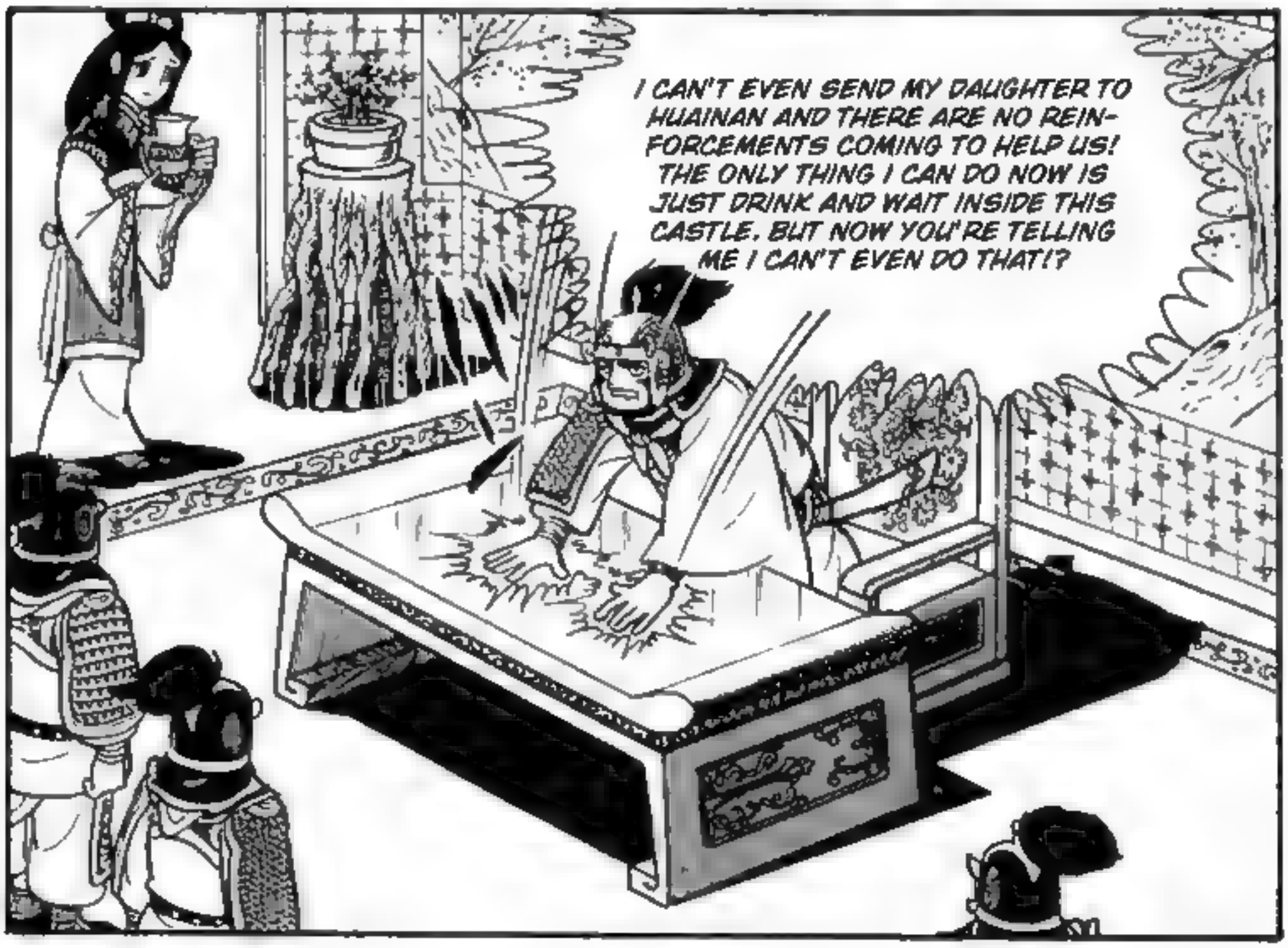
PROHIBITION

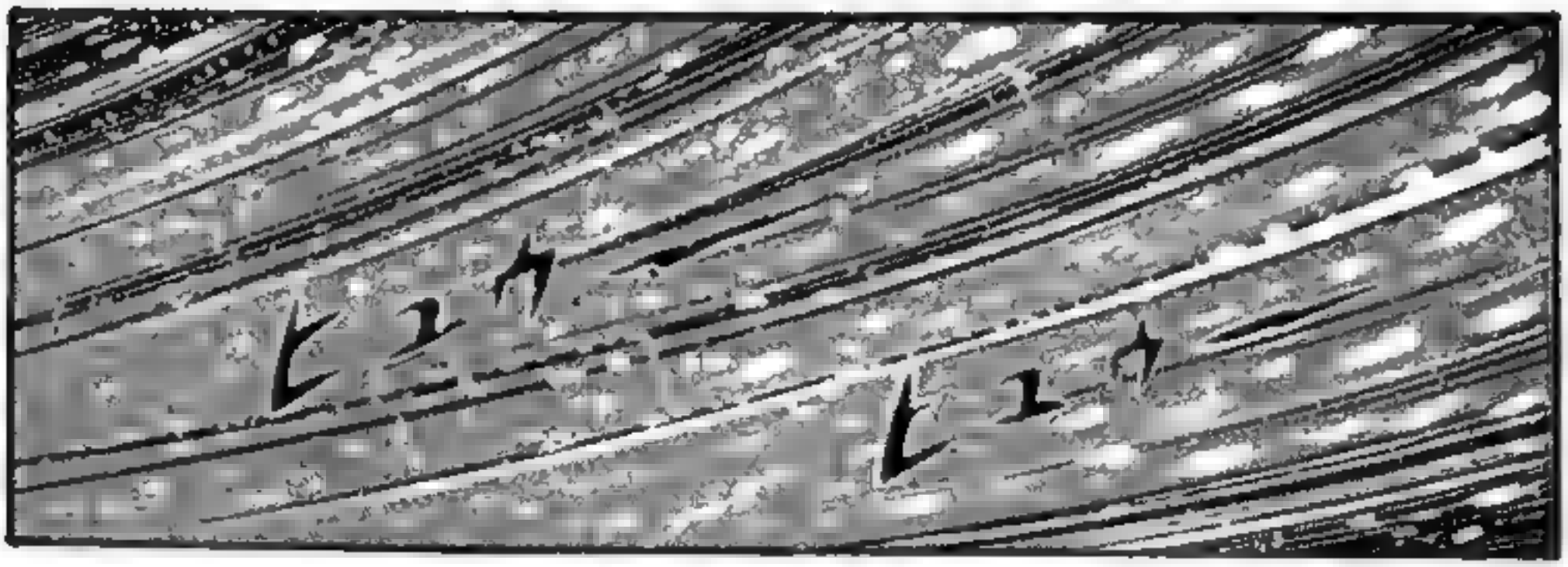


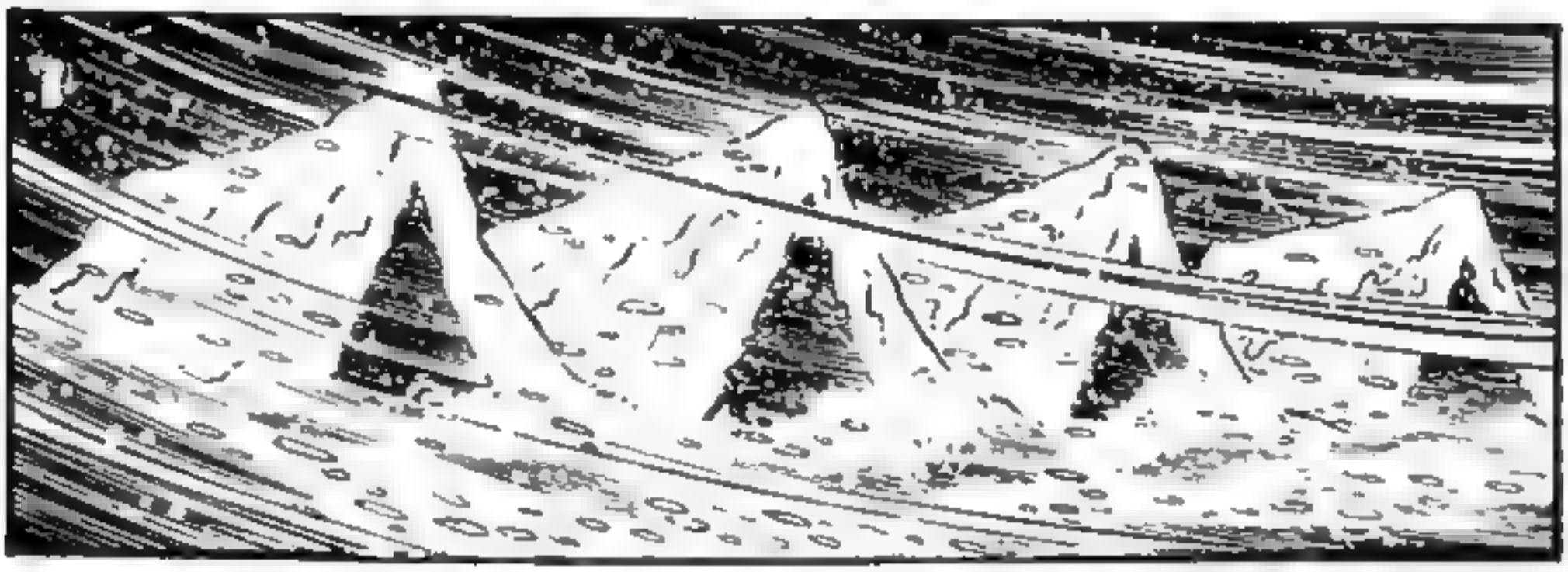

WHAT'RE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE! POUR ME ANOTHER GLASS!

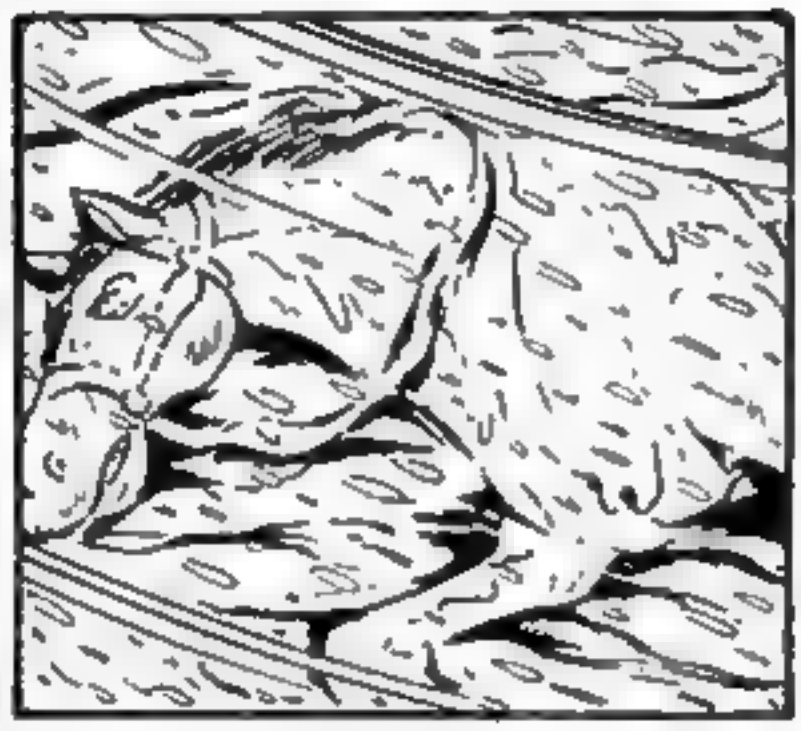

SILENCE!

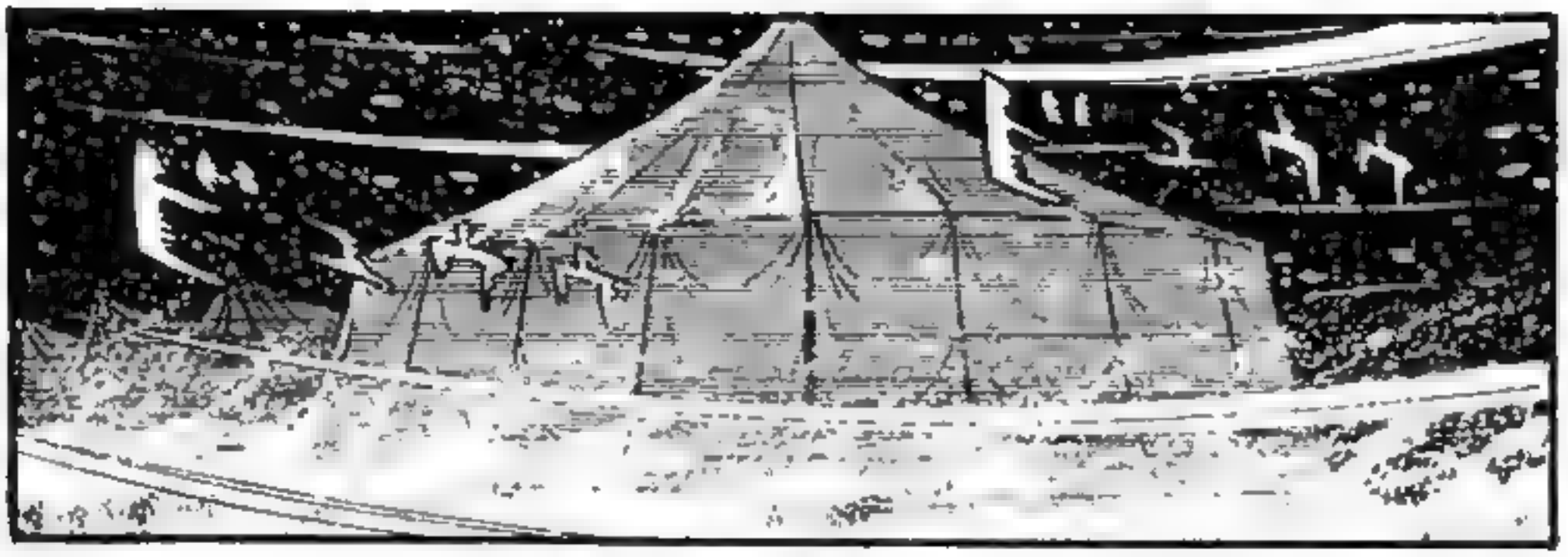
I BELIEVE SIR HAS HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK ALREADY...

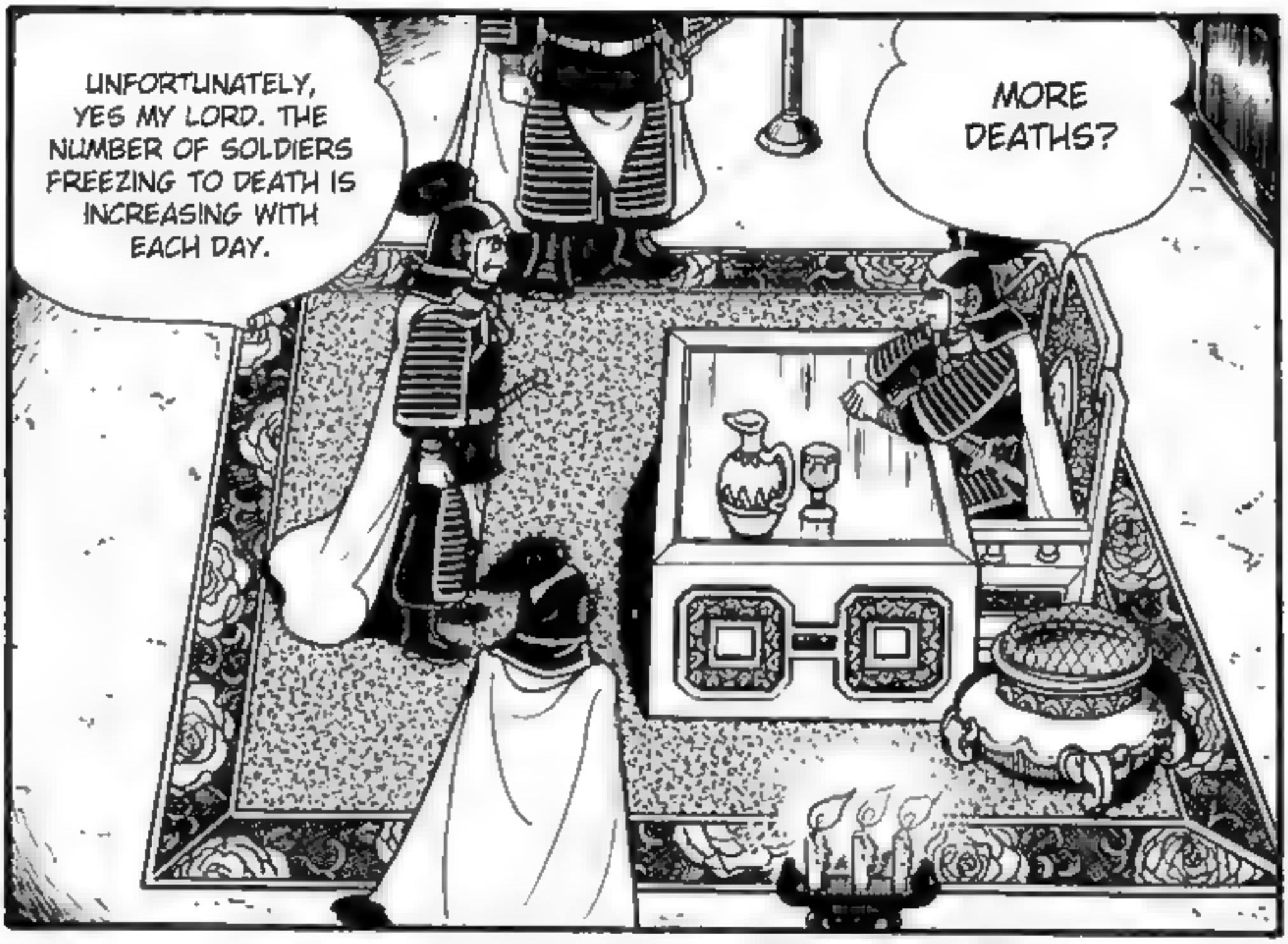

I CAN'T EVEN SEND MY DAUGHTER TO HUAINAN AND THERE ARE NO REIN-FORCEMENTS COMING TO HELP US! THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS JUST DRINK AND WAIT INSIDE THIS CASTLE. BUT NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME I CAN'T EVEN DO THAT!?










UNFORTUNATELY, YES MY LORD. THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS FREEZING TO DEATH IS INCREASING WITH EACH DAY.
MORE DEATHS?

IF A GREAT BLIZZARD WERE TO COME NOW, OUR ENTIRE ARMY MIGHT END UP FREEZING TO DEATH.

JUST AS WE'VE FEARED...

THERE WILL BE RAMIFICATIONS IF WE WERE TO LOSE HERE.

AT THIS RATE, THE PEOPLE WILL MOCK ME AND CALL ME INCOMPETENT FOR NOT EVEN BEING ABLE TO CAPTURE ONE PUNY LITTLE CASTLE.

HMM?

PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO RETREAT TO XU-CHANG BEFORE SOMEONE WERE TO ATTACK IT AGAIN.

THIS IS A TEST OF ENDURANCE FOR BOTH SIDES, SIR.

I UNDERSTAND MY LORD'S WORRIES BUT LU BU AND HIS MEN ARE IN JUST AS MUCH TROUBLE AS WE ARE.

I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST THAT, MY LORD.

SIR, WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN CAPTURING XIAPI ONLY BECAUSE OF THE RIVER THAT SURROUNDS IT.

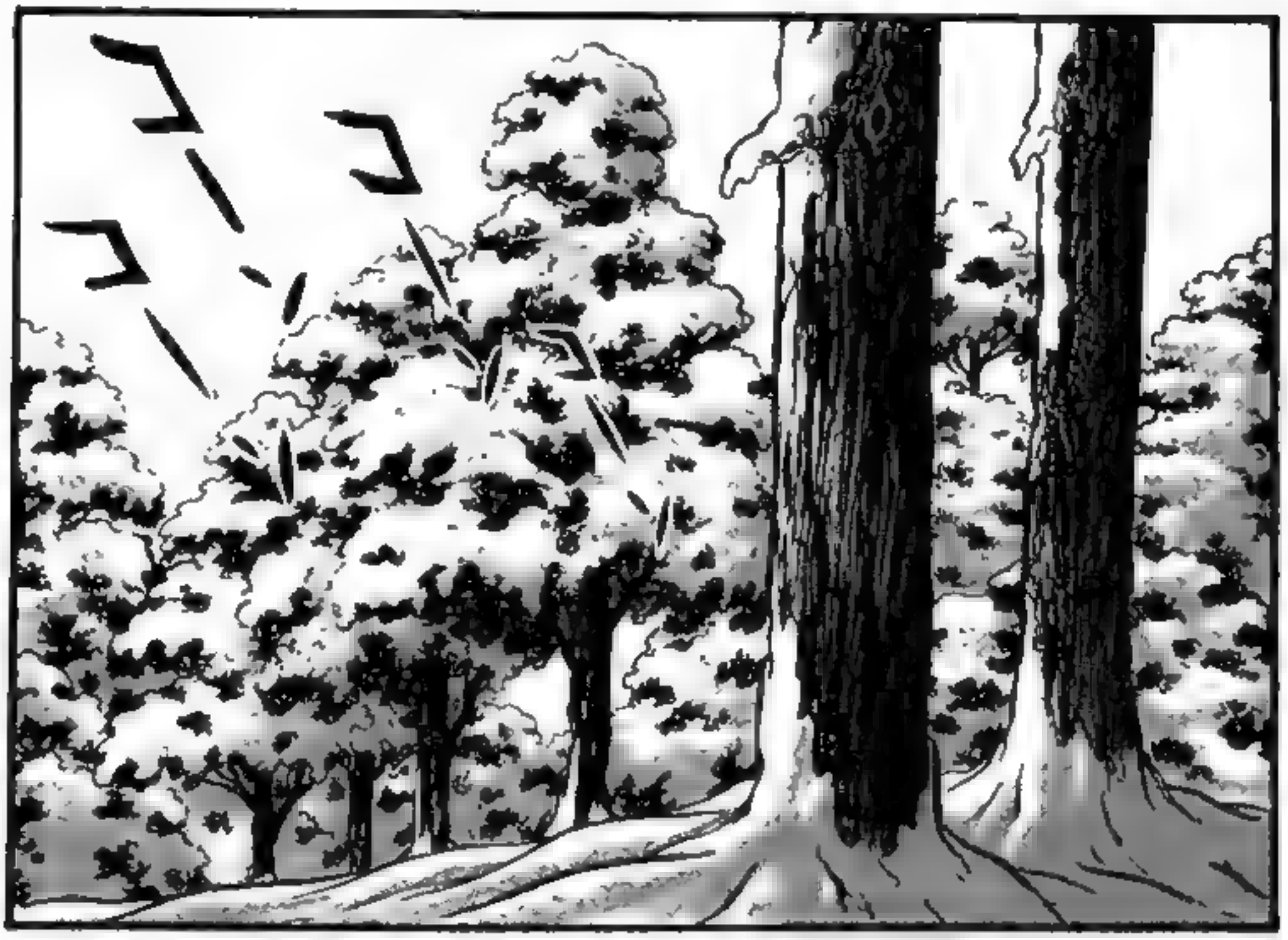
I AGREE AS WELL. WE MUST NOT PANIC AND LOSE OUR COMPOSURE LEST RISK THE MORALE OF OUR SOLDIERS DROP FURTHER.

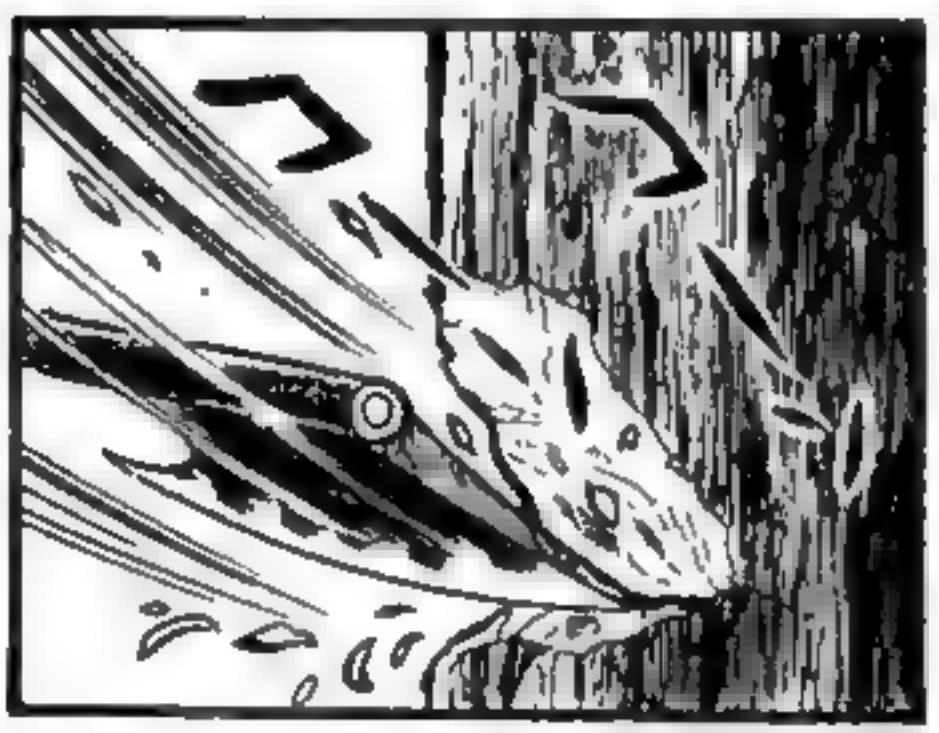
DAM UP THE RIVER?

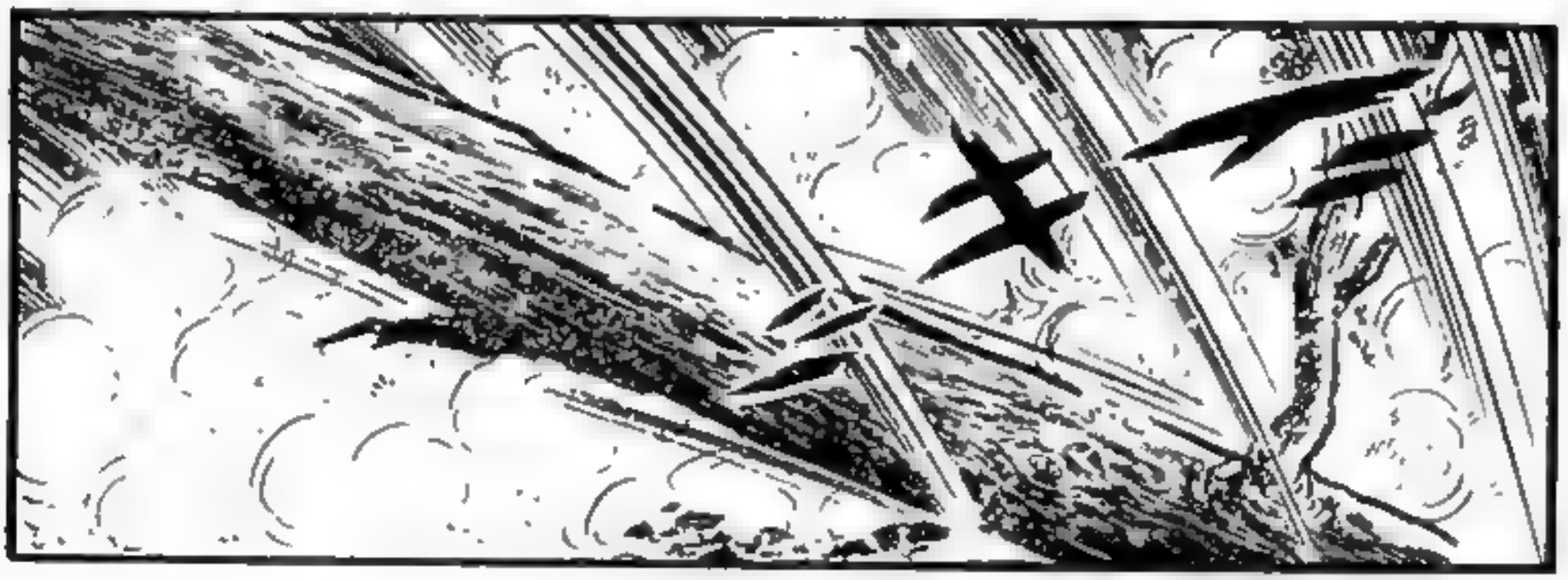
SO WHAT IF WE WERE TO DAM UP THAT VERY RIVER AND FLOOD THE ENEMY CASTLE?

ALRIGHT, GET OUR MEN TO BUILD THAT DAM RIGHT AWAY!

HMM, THAT'S QUITE THE INTERESTING IDEA.



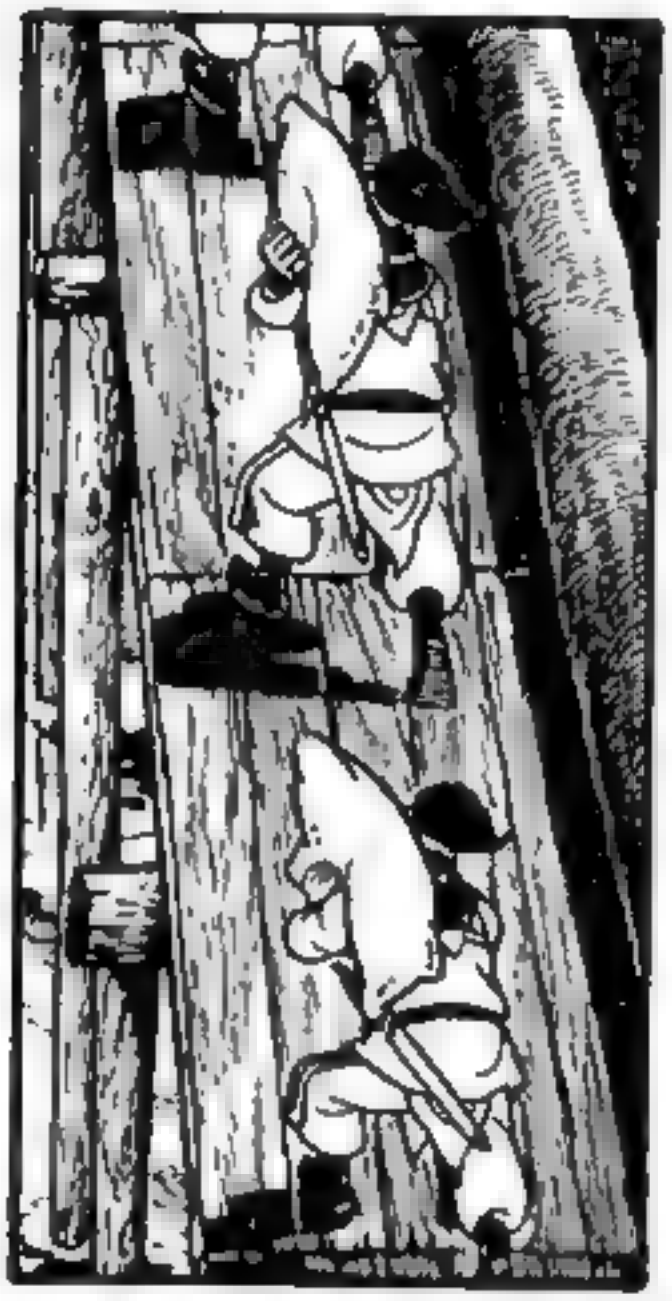


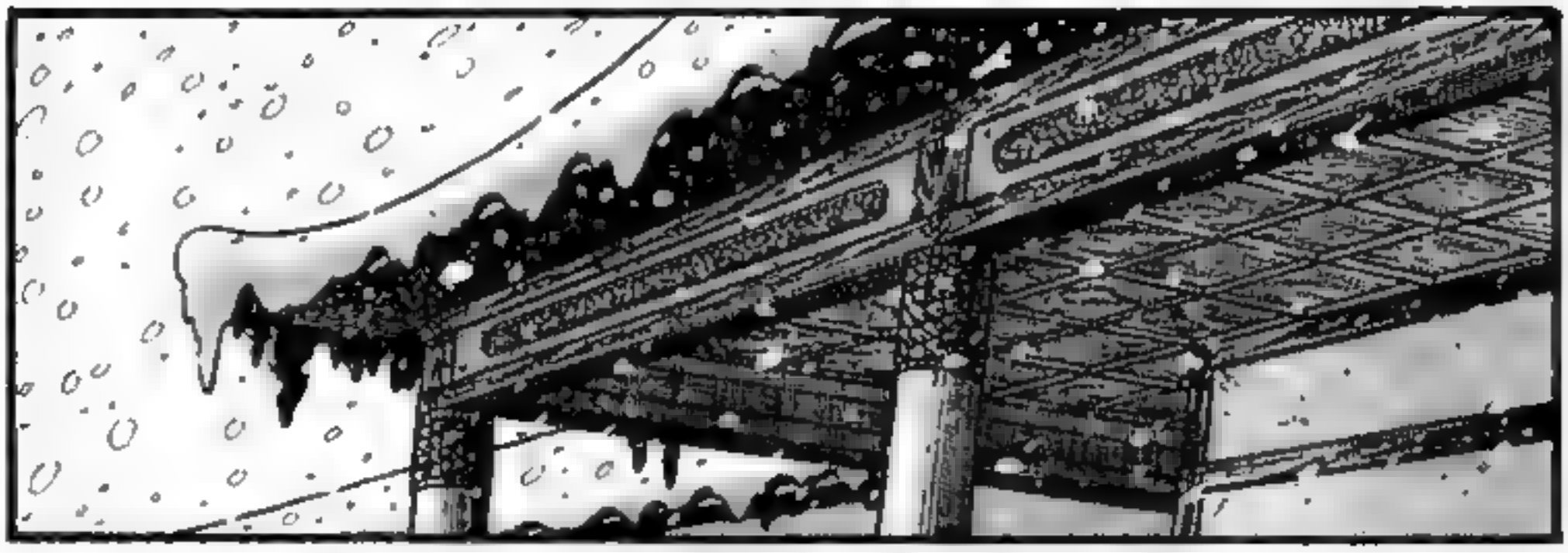


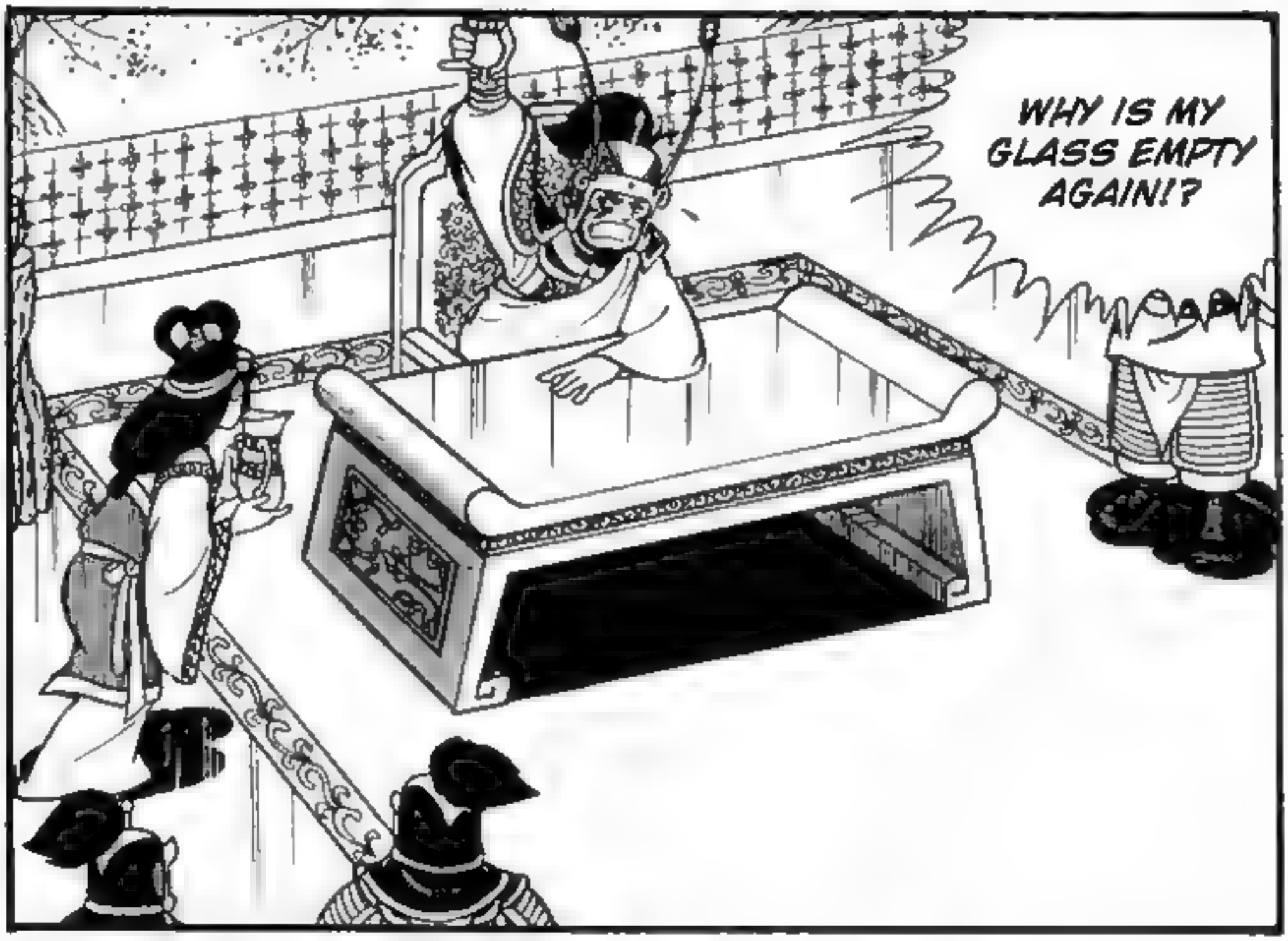
COME ON, MOVE IT!

THIS WAY, BOY.

ONE,
TWO!
ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!





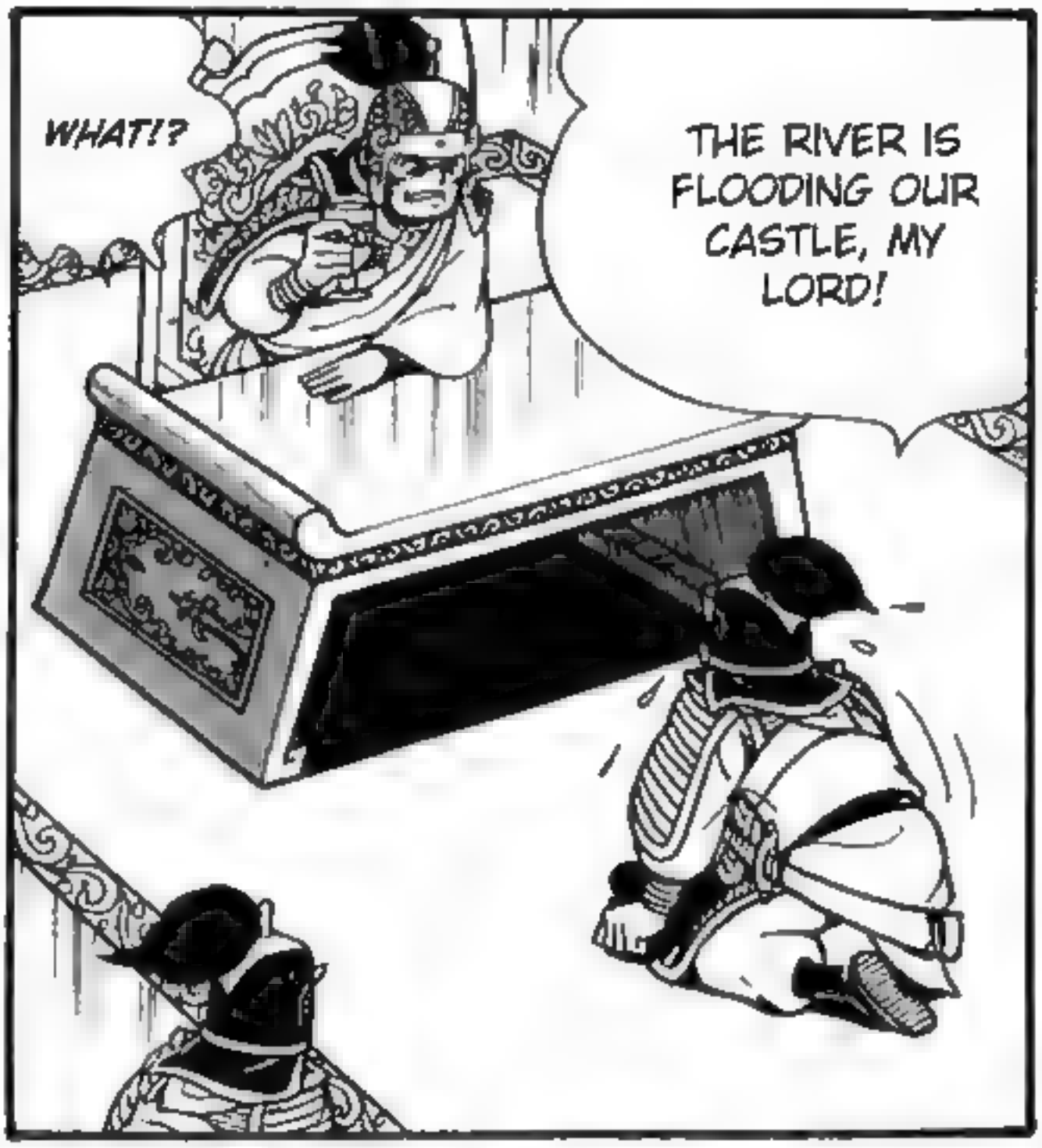

WHY IS MY GLASS EMPTY AGAIN!?

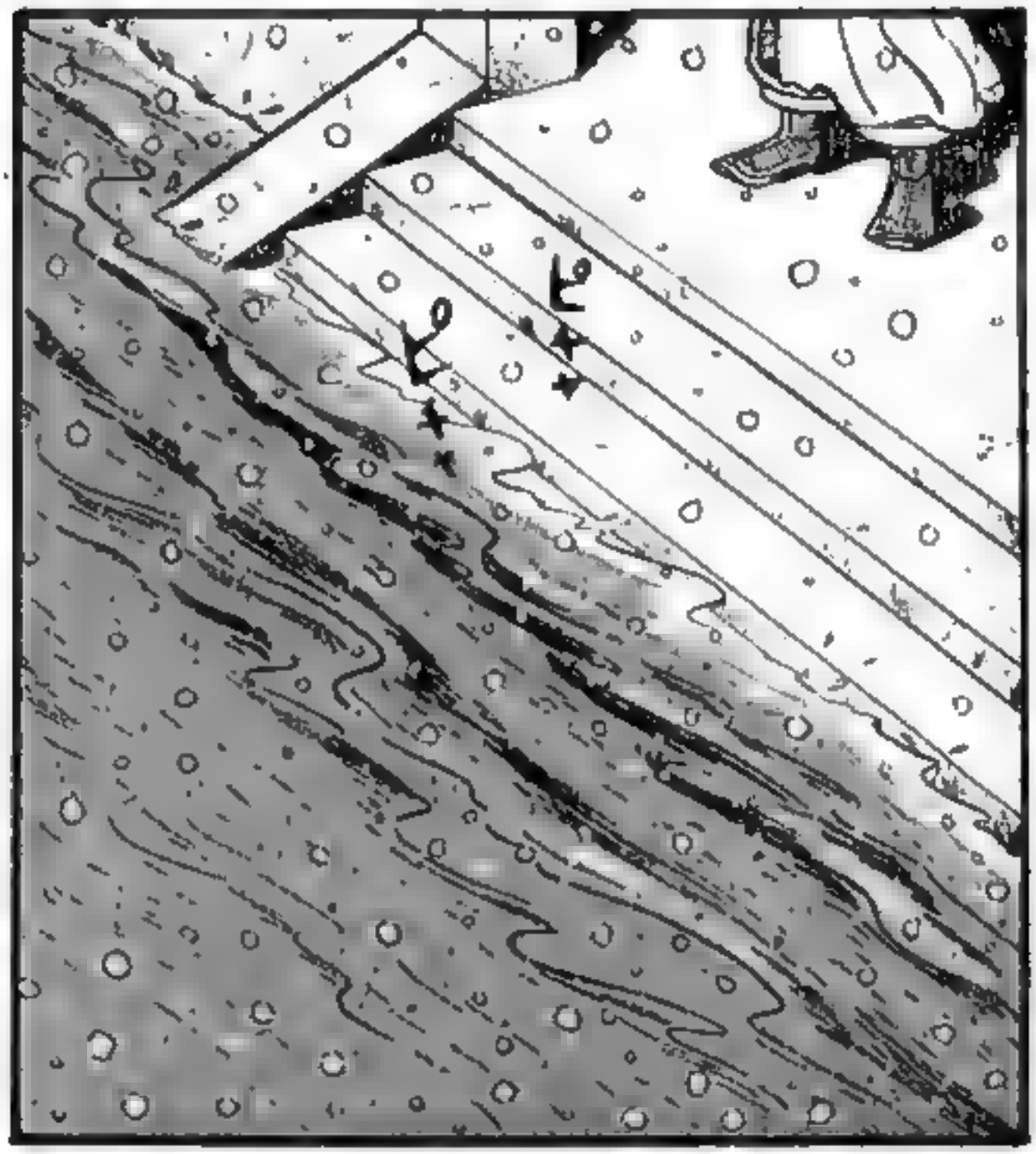
EMERGENCY? AREN'T WE ALREADY IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY?

MY LORD, IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

IT'D BE BEST IF MY LORD SEES FOR HIMSELF.

HIC!


WHAT!?
THE RIVER IS FLOODING OUR CASTLE, MY LORD!



HMM!?

IT APPEARS THAT THE ENEMIES HAVE DAMMED UP THE RIVER, SIR.

W-WHAT IS GOING ON...?

JUST BECAUSE THEY'VE DAMMED UP THE RIVER DOESN'T MEAN THAT THIS ENTIRE CASTLE WILL SUBMERGE UNDER WATER!

STOP MAKING SUCH A RUCKUS AND DON'T PANIC!

IF IT STARTS SNOWING ANY HARDER THAN THIS, CAO CAO WILL BE BURIED UNDER SNOW EVEN BEFORE WE'RE FLOODED!

JUST MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND AND PREPARE FOR ANY ENEMY ATTACKS!

YES, SIR.

THERE IS NO REASON TO PANIC! YOU HEAR!?

HMM?

TO PANIC OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS... I GUESS THE OTHERS ARE JUST AS STRESSED OUT AND ANXIOUS...

IS THIS... REALLY MY FACE...?

NOW!

?

SOMEONE BRING ME A MIRROR!

LET ME SEE...

WHEN DID MY FACE CHANGE SO MUCH...?

GRAY HAIRS EVERYWHERE AND DARK CIRCLES UNDER MY EYES...

ALL THAT DRINKING I DO EACH DAY HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON MY BODY...

THAT'S IT! IT MUST BE THE WINE!

?

I SHALL QUIT DRINKING FROM TODAY FORTH!

WITH ME LOOKING AS PATHETIC AS THIS, IT'S NO WONDER MY SUBORDINATES ARE EASILY PANICKED.

ANYBODY WHO DARES TO DRINK WILL BE EXECUTED!

FROM TODAY FORTH, ALL DRINKING WILL BE PROHIBITED!

AND FREEZE OUR ENEMIES TO DEATH...

BLIZZARD, MAKE IT SNOW EVEN HARDER,

WHAT IS IT?

GENERAL HOU CHENG!

THE HORSES COULDN'T HAVE RUN OFF ON THEIR OWN.

WHAT!?

THERE ARE 20 HORSES MISSING FROM THE STABLES. GENERAL!

WAIT A MINUTE...

I MUST INVESTIGATE FURTHER.

WHAT! WHAT WOULD SOMEONE FROM XIAPI EVEN ACCOMPLISH BY STEALING 20 HORSES IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION?

YES, GENERAL. THE HORSES MUST HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY SOMEONE.

HAVE YOU SOLDIERS SEEN ANYONE TAKING 20 HORSES OUT OF THE CASTLE?

SORRY BUT NO, SIR.

NO, SIR.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYBODY TAKING HORSES OUTSIDE THE CASTLE?

WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM?

AH, WE LET A FEW SOLDIERS WITH HORSES OUTSIDE THE GATES A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

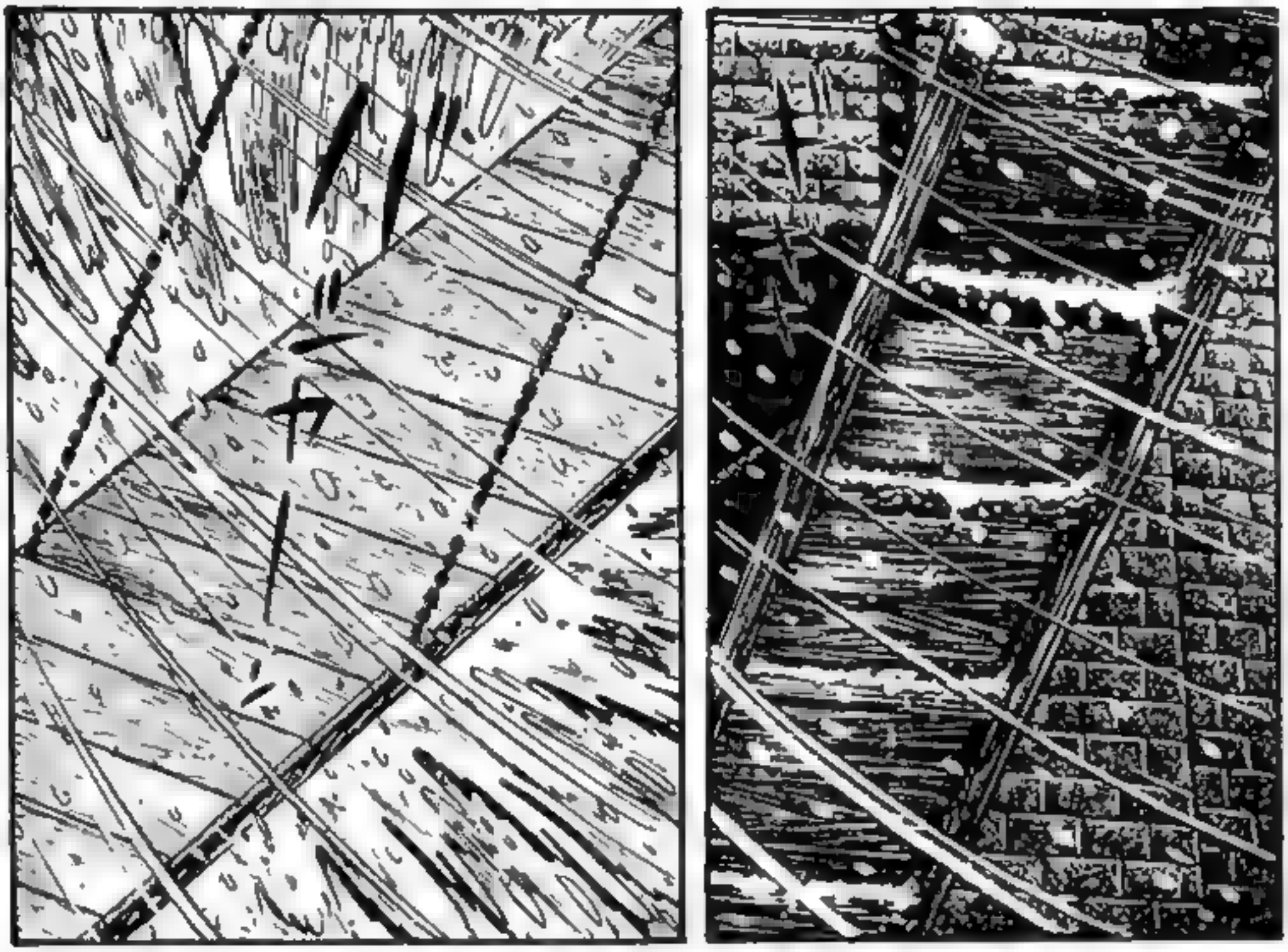
ALL THE MEN ARE BECOMING CARELESS IN THEIR DUTIES...

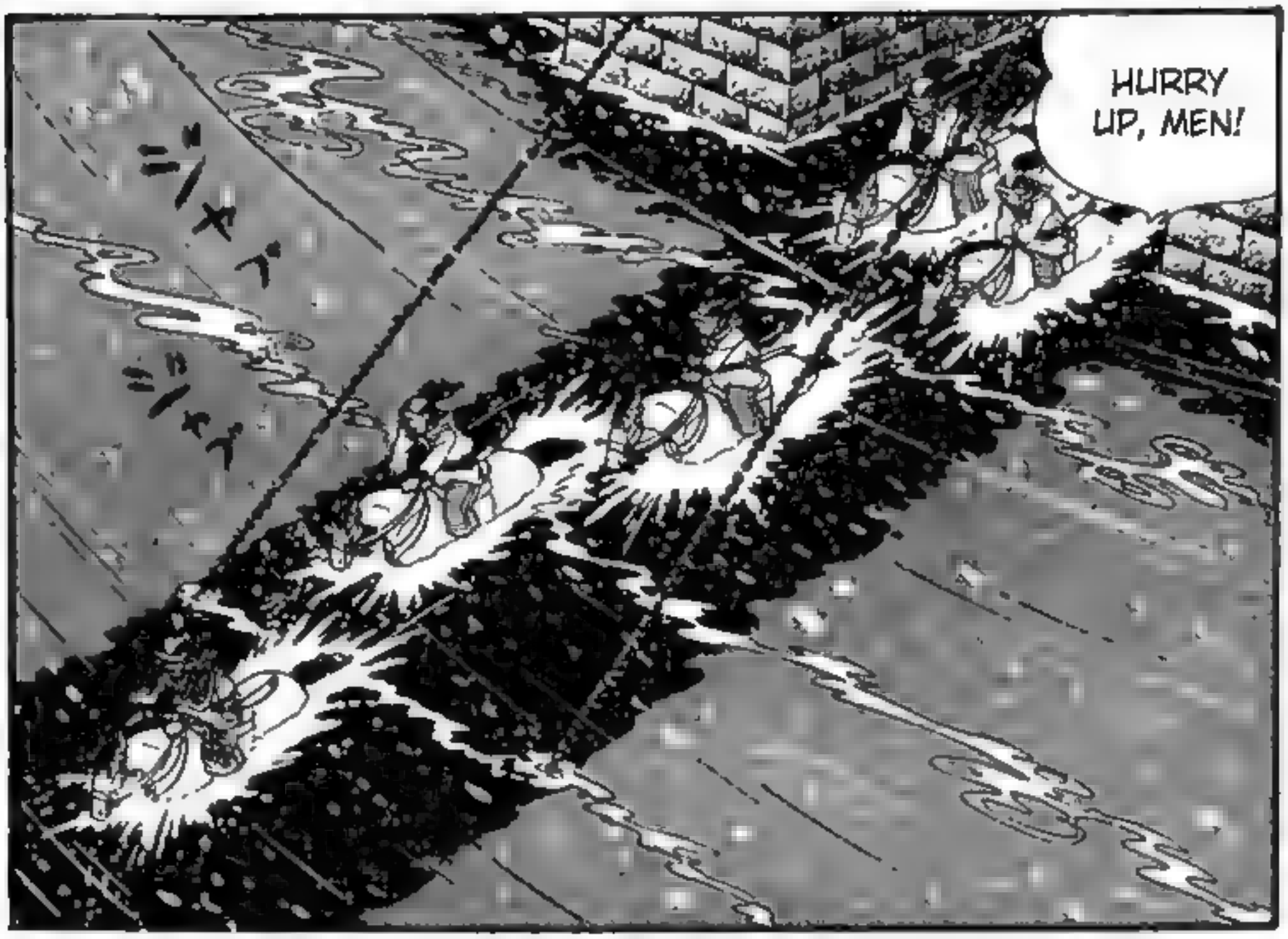
WELL, WE JUST ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE ORDERED TO DO SO, SIR.

NOW!

I MUST CHASE AFTER THEM SO LOWER THE DRAW-BRIDGE!

YES, SIR!




HURRY UP, MEN!

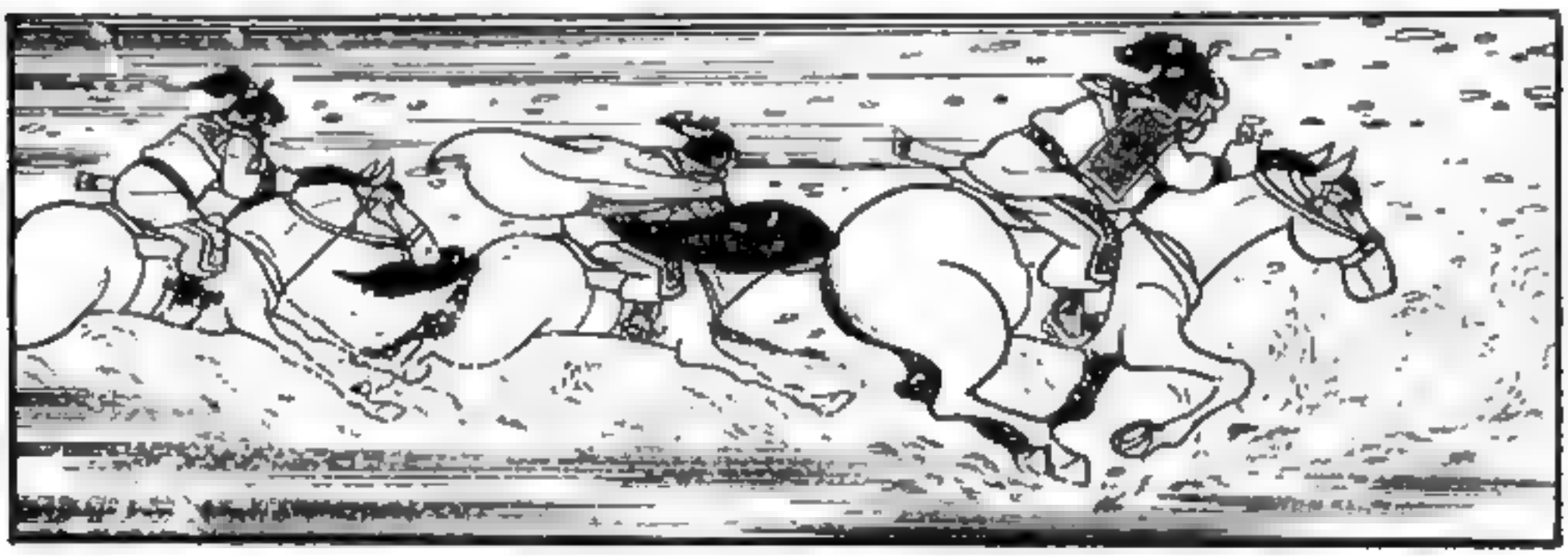
CAO CAO WILL SURELY LET US JOIN HIS SIDE ONCE WE PRESENT THESE HORSES TO HIM.

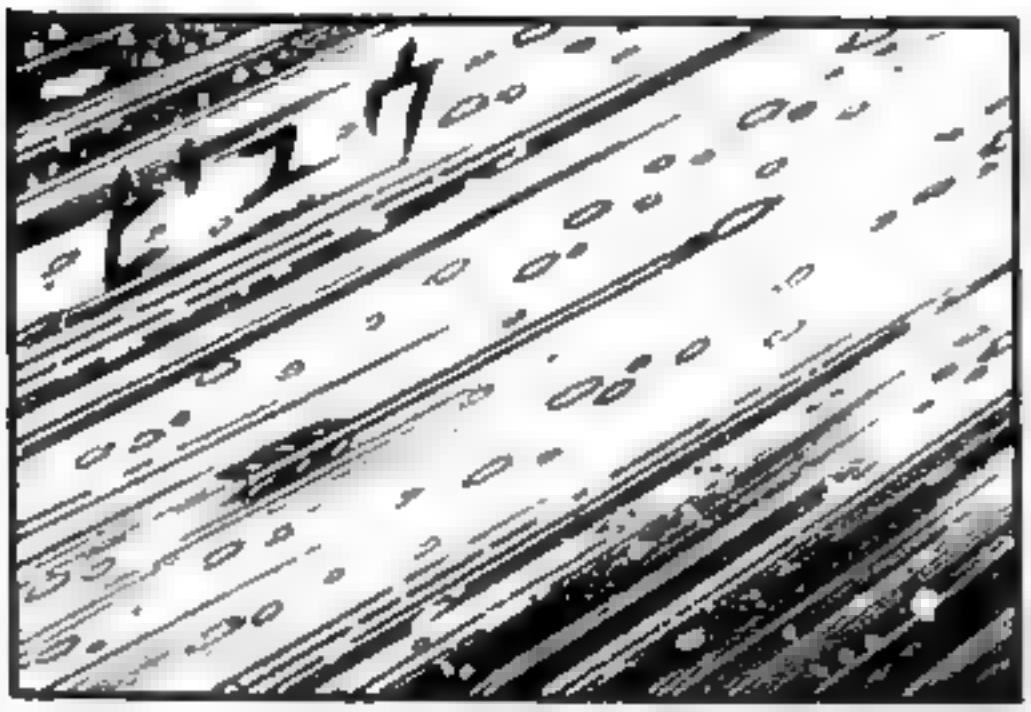
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER UNTIL WE'RE AT THE ENEMY ENCAMPMENTS.

HMM?

RUN AWAY!

AGHH! WE HAVE PURSUERS!





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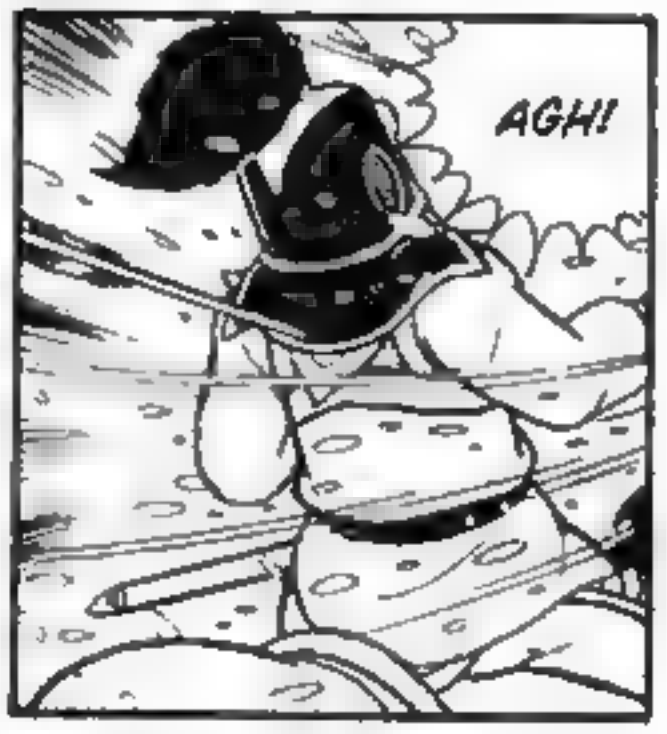
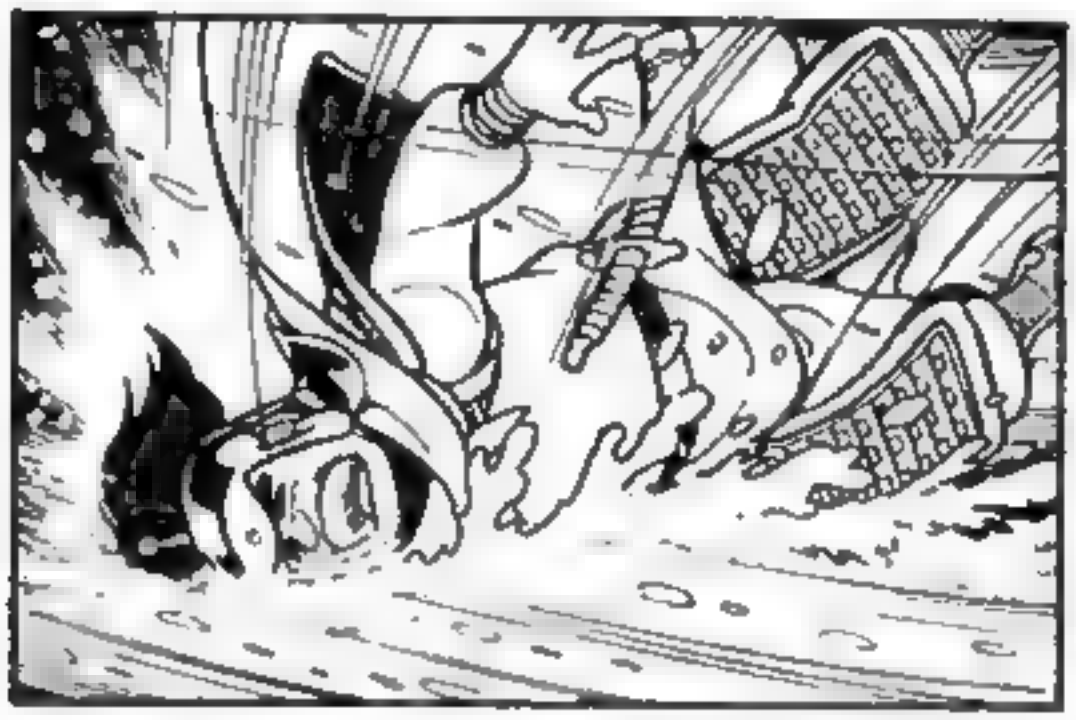
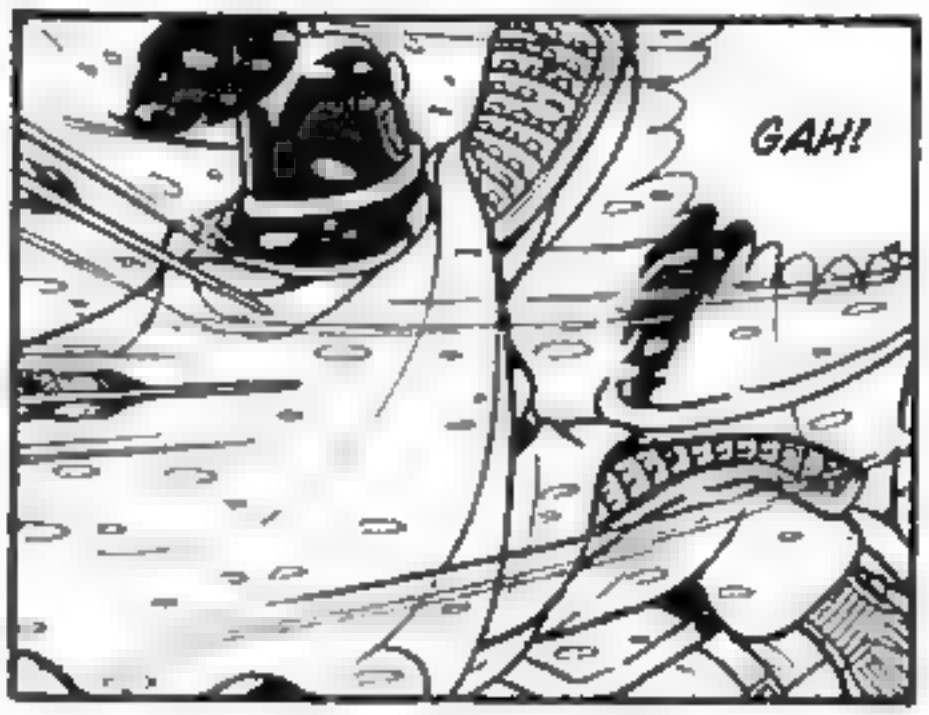
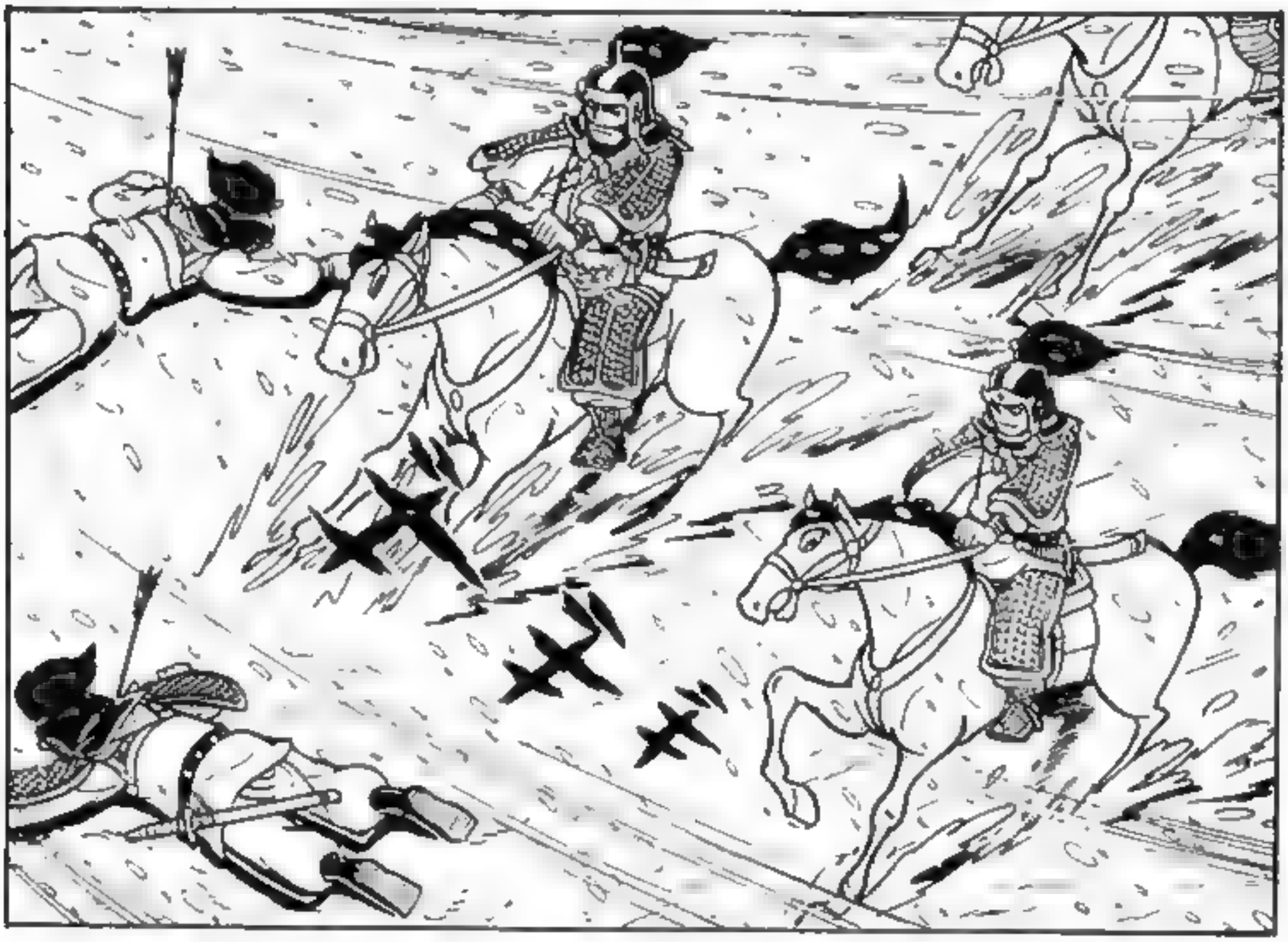

AGH!



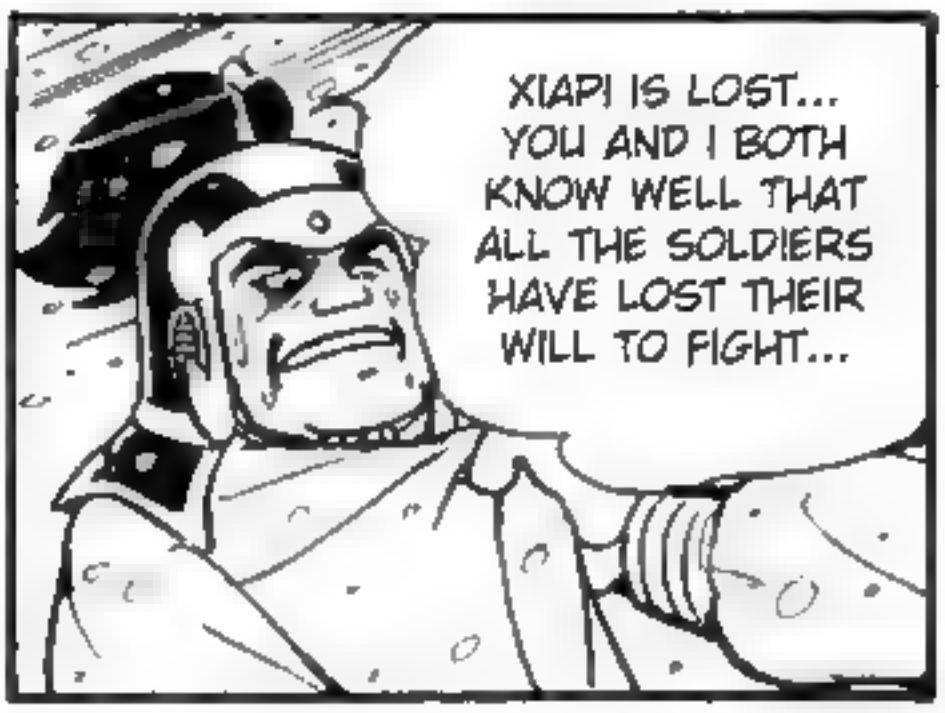

GAH!



GOOD, WE'LL NOW TAKE THE HORSES BACK IN.

WHY DID YOU TRY TO STEAL THE HORSES?

IT'S ONLY WISE TO SWITCH SIDES NOW BY BRINGING ALONG A LITTLE GIFT...


XIAPI IS LOST... YOU AND I BOTH KNOW WELL THAT ALL THE SOLDIERS HAVE LOST THEIR WILL TO FIGHT...

YOU DAMN TRAITOR!

WITH OUR CURRENT SITUATION, HE WON'T BE THE LAST ONE TO TRY AND SWITCH SIDES...

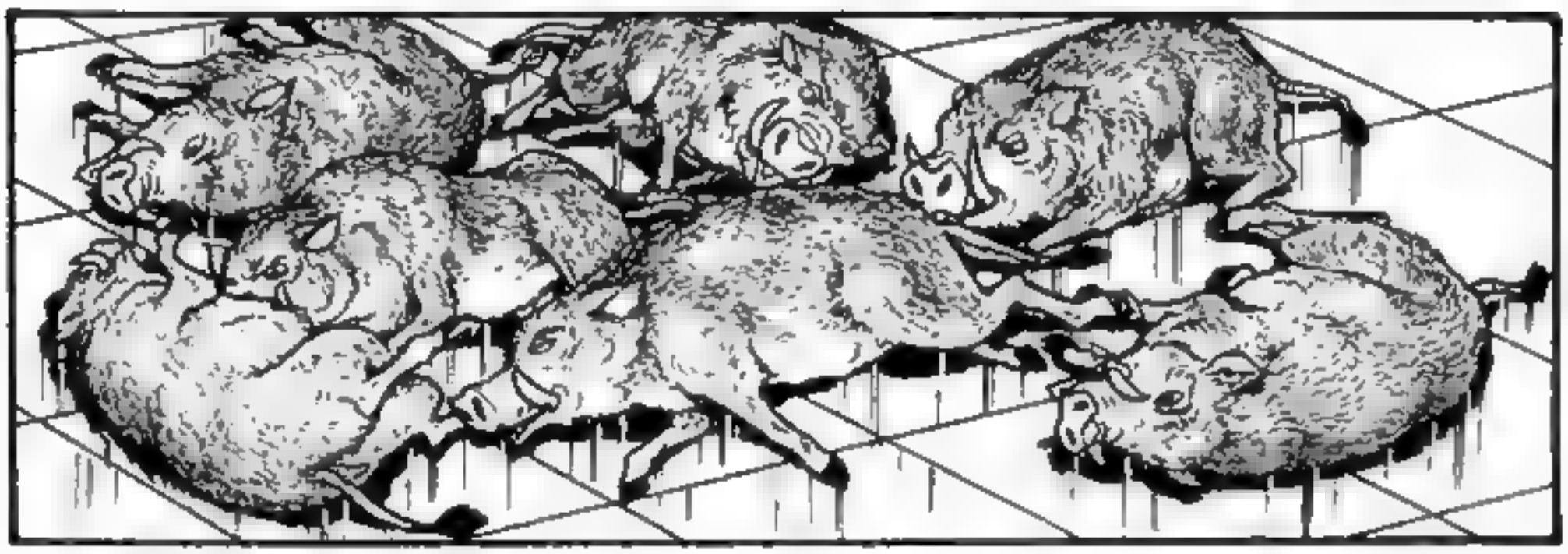
THIS IS VERY BAD...

I MUST DO SOME-THING...

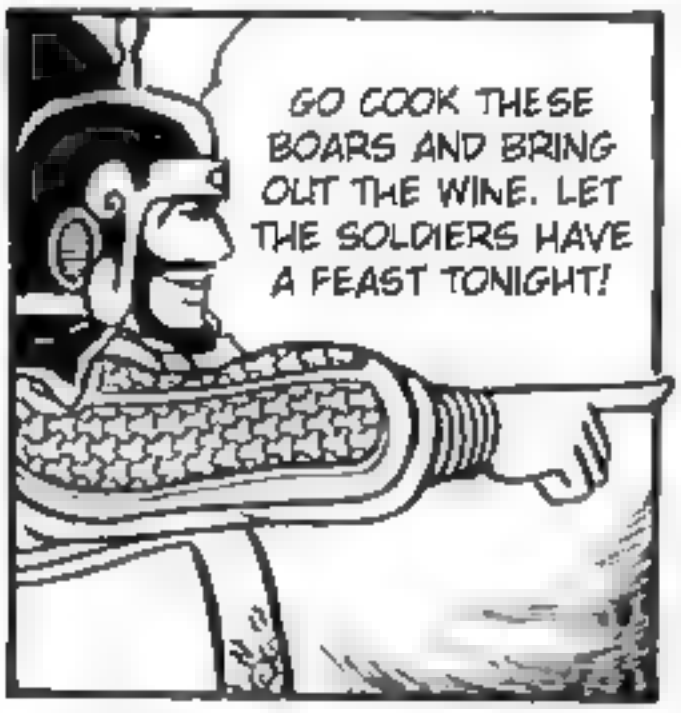
MNN...

AH, GOOD.
GENERAL HOU CHENG, WE'VE CAUGHT THE BOARS AS YOU'VE ORDERED.

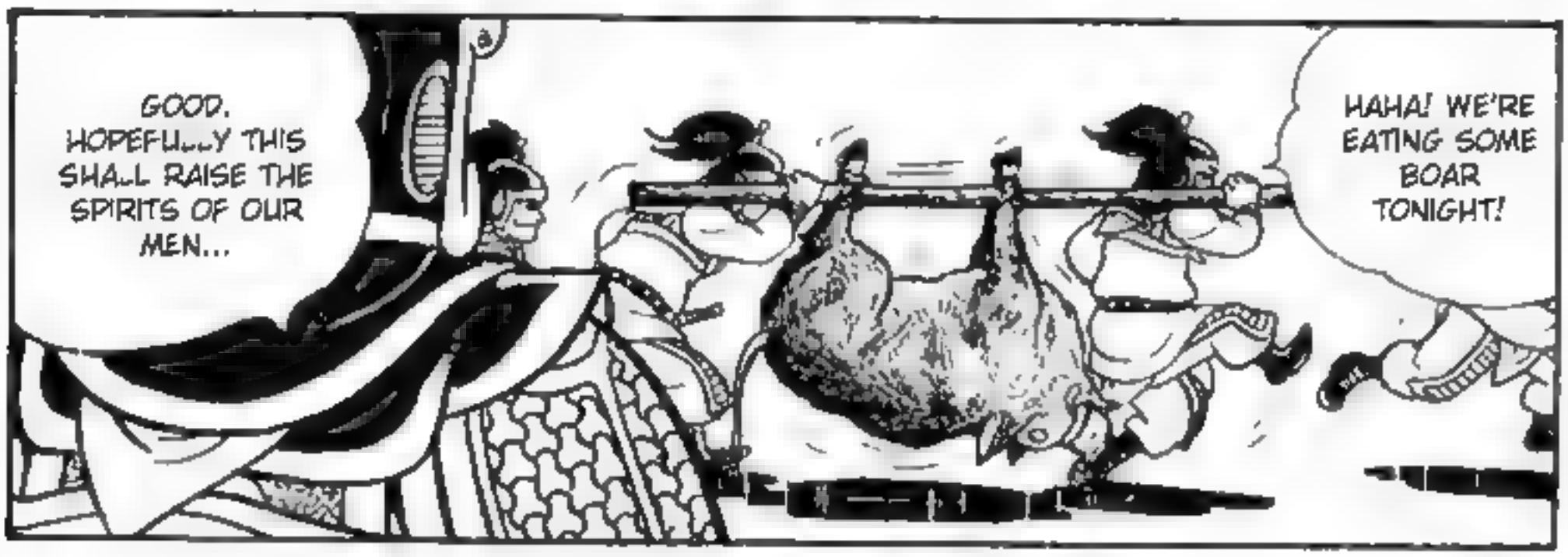
EXCELLENT, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CATCH A LOT.



THE SOL-
DIERS NEED
SOME MEAT
EVERY NOW
AND THEN.

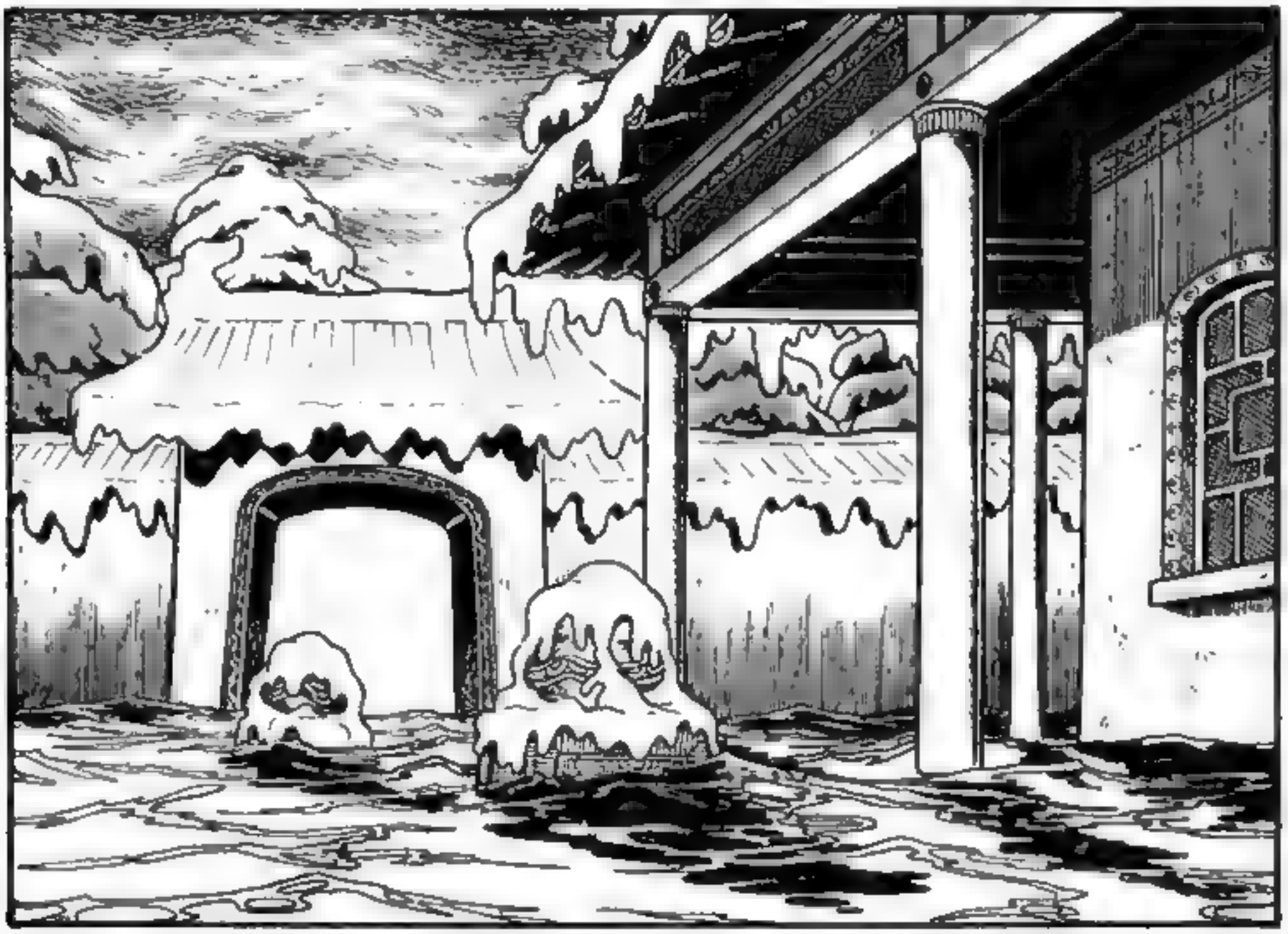

GO COOK THESE
BOARS AND BRING
OUT THE WINE. LET
THE SOLDIERS HAVE
A FEAST TONIGHT!

WHY, WE'LL
EAT THEM, OF
COURSE!
WHAT DOES SIR
PLAN TO DO WITH
THESE BOARS?

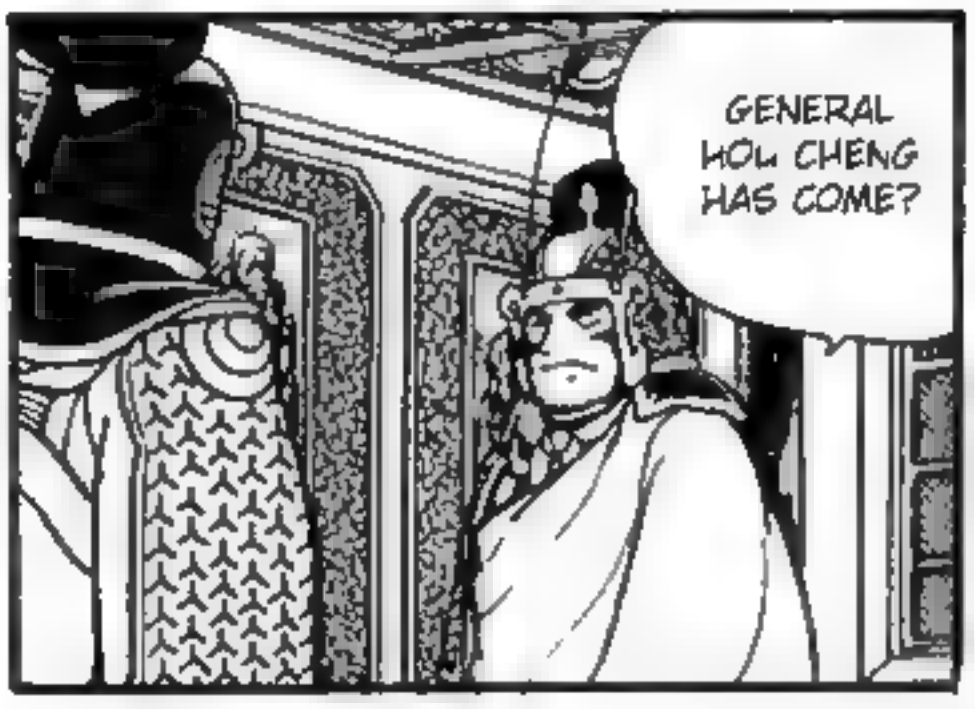

GOOD.
HOPEFULLY THIS
SHALL RAISE THE
SPIRITS OF OUR
MEN...
HAHA! WE'RE
EATING SOME
BOAR
TONIGHT!

I'M SURE HE'LL BE PLEASED.

AH, I MUST GIVE AT LEAST ONE BOAR TO MY LORD AS WELL.



I WONDER WHAT HE'S COME FOR...


GENERAL HOU CHENG HAS COME?

OUR SOLDIERS HAVE CAUGHT SOME BOARS AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD CHEER UP MY LORD TO ENJOY IT ALONG WITH SOME WINE.

...JUST WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

HOW DARE YOU...!

?

S-SIR?

B-BUT MY LORD, THE SOLDIERS ARE ALL WEARY AND DEPRESSED! I WAS ONLY THINKING OF RAISING THEIR MORALE BY LETTING THEM...

SILENCE! MAKING UP EXCUSES JUST SO YOU CAN DRINK... DESPICABLE!

HOU CHENG! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE NEW LAW PROHIBITING ALCOHOL!? THOUGH I AM TRYING MY BEST TO REFRAIN FROM DRINKING, YOU DARE LET THE SOLDIERS DRINK AND EVEN TEMPT ME!?

I SHALL NOW DEMONSTRATE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DISOBEY ORDERS!
LOOK CAREFULLY, MY MEN! I HAVE CLEARLY STATED BEFORE THAT ANY WHO DARES TO BREAK MY LAW SHALL BE EXECUTED!

MY LORD!
S-SIR, PLEASE STOP THIS AT ONCE!

PLEASE CALM DOWN, MY LORD.
WHY DO YOU STOP ME!? IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO PUNISH THOSE WHO'VE DISOBEYED ORDERS!

MOREOVER, IF HOU CHENG WERE TO BE EXECUTED, HIS SUBORDINATES WILL BECOME DISPIRITED AND MAY EVEN ABANDON OUR ARMY.

HOU CHENG IS A FAMOUS GENERAL THAT EVEN OUR ENEMIES KNOW WELL. BY EXECUTING HIM NOW, WE WILL ONLY BE BRINGING GOOD NEWS TO OUR ENEMIES.

PLEASE SIR, ANYTHING BUT EXECUTION...

B-BUT... HE STILL DARED TO DEFY ME...!

FINE! I SHALL SPARE HIM HIS LIFE BUT I SENTENCE HIM TO 100 LASHINGS!

PLEASE BEAR THE PAIN, HOU CHENG.

YES, CARRY OUT HIS PUNISHMENT NOW!

SHALL WE BEGIN, SIR?

I ADVISE YOU TO CLENCH YOUR TEETH.

1!

5...
6...

4!

3!

2!

18!
19!

50! 51!
52! 53!

74!
75!

65!
66!
67!

HE HAS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, SIR.

I CARE NOT. CONTINUE ON!

LU BU'S END

MNN...
OUR LORD HAS DONE A HORRIBLE THING TO YOU.
HOU CHENG, YOU'RE FINALLY UP!
ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
YES, YOU PASSED OUT FROM THE PAIN.
WAS IT YOU TWO WHO CARRIED ME BACK HERE?

WHAT'S WRONG? IS IT YOUR WOUNDS?

NO NEED TO THANK ME. AFTER ALL, WE'RE FRIENDS AREN'T WE?

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

THESE ARE TEARS OF FRUSTRATION. I NEVER HAD ANY DESIRE TO DRINK ANY ALCOHOL. I MERELY WISHED TO RAISE THE SPIRITS OF OUR MEN.

NO, NO. AS A WARRIOR, I WOULD NOT CRY OVER THIS MUCH PAIN.

BUT DESPITE WHAT I SAID, MY LORD REFUSED TO BELIEVE ME. IT SEEMS HE ONLY HAS EARS FOR HIS WIFE AND CONCUBINES THESE DAYS...

.....

OUR FATES SEEM TO BE SEALED...
HE EVEN GAVE UP SO EASILY ON THE PLAN OF DRAGGING THE HORN AFTER A WORD FROM HIS WIFE.

I BELIEVED LU BU TO BE AN ADMIRABLE LORD AND SO HAVE SERVED HIM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES UNTIL NOW.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD TO SACRIFICE MYSELF TO PROTECT HIM IN THE PAST, BUT I DO NOT FEEL THE SAME WAY THESE DAYS.

TO BE HONEST, WE FEEL THE SAME WAY AS WELL.

HOU CHENG... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF DEFECTING TO CAO CAO...?

I HAVE NEVER BEEN INDEBTED TO LU BU TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT I MUST RESIGN MYSELF TO THE SAME FATE AS HIM. I'M SURE THE SAME GOES FOR YOU AS WELL.

WHAT!? YOU MEAN TO ABANDON OUR LORD!?

HMM ...

FINE.

NO, THE EASTERN GATE ALONE HASN'T BEEN FLOODED BECAUSE OF THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND.

BUT WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THE OVERFLOWING RIVER ON ALL 4 SIDES. JUST HOW CAN WE EVEN SNEAK OUT?

WHAT SHOULD THE TWO OF US DO?

LU BU CARES MORE ABOUT HIS PRECIOUS RED HARE THAN ANY OF US. I WILL STEAL THE RED HARE AND PRESENT IT TO CAO CAO TO EARN HIS TRUST.

ALRIGHT.

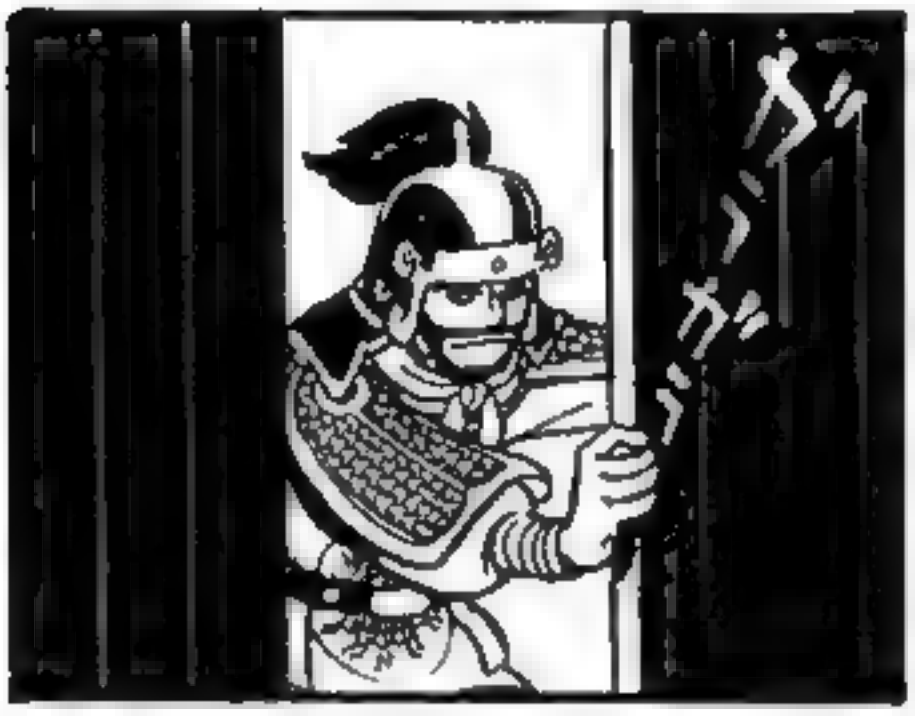
WHILE I GO OUT TO MEET WITH CAO CAO, YOU TWO WILL TIE LU BU UP.

THEN I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

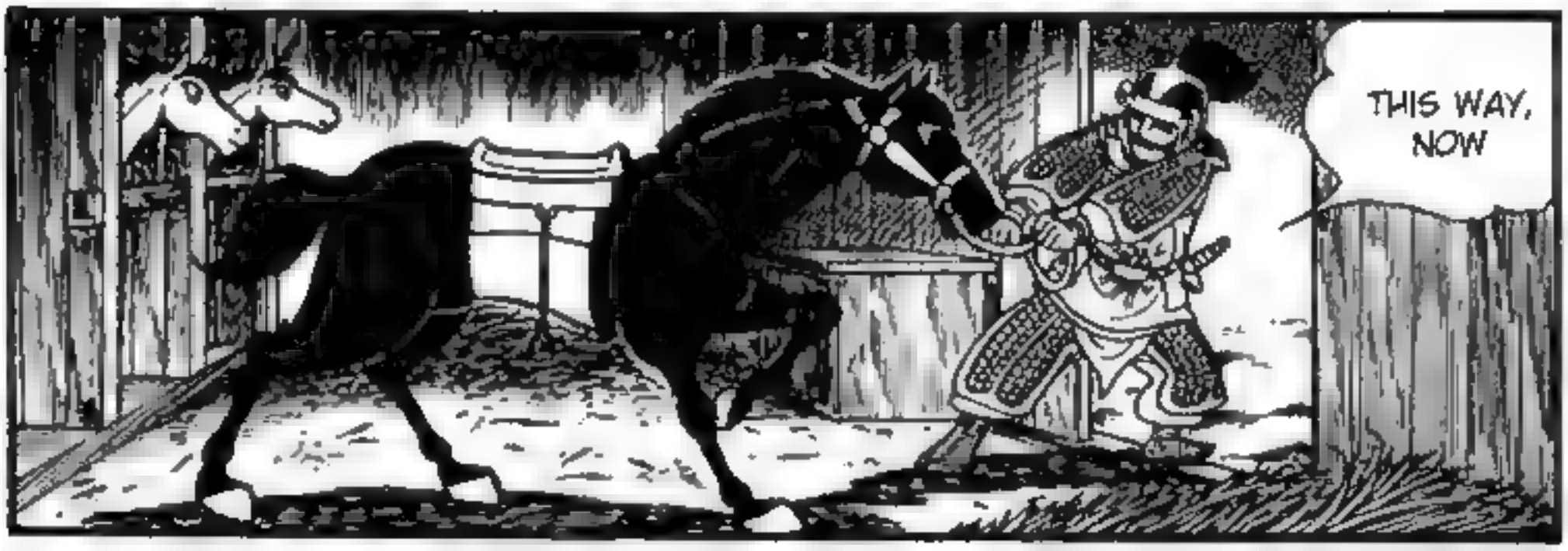
ALRIGHT, YOU CAN COUNT ON US.

DON'T WORRY, THIS IS NOTHING ...

WILL YOU BE FINE WITH THOSE WOUNDS?



ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS CHEER UP THESE TIRED SOLDIERS...


THIS WAY, NOW

WHAT IS IT AT THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT!?

SIR!

THE ENEMY GENERAL HOU CHENG HAS COME TO OUR BASE. HE SAYS HE WISHES TO JOIN OUR SIDE.

YES, MY LORD. AND HE HAS BROUGHT LU BU'S FAMED RED HARE AS AN OFFERING.

THE HOU CHENG? ONE OF LU BU'S GENERALS!?

HMM, SO EVEN A TALENTED GENERAL LIKE HOU CHENG HAS COME TO BECOME MY SUBORDINATE?

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL *COME* OUT TO SEE HIM.

GOOD EVENING, SIR. MY NAME IS HOU CHENG.
I AM CAO CAO.

YES, AS LONG AS SIR WOULD ALLOW ME...

YOU WISHED TO SWITCH SIDES AND JOIN MY ARMY?

AT THAT POINT, WEI XU AND SONG XIAN WILL OPEN THE EASTERN GATE TO LET SIR'S ARMY INSIDE.

GENERALS WEI XU AND SONG XIAN WISH TO JOIN SIR'S SIDE AS WELL. THE THREE OF US HAVE PLANNED TO CATCH LU BU AND THEN SIGNAL TO SIR'S ARMY BY WAVING A WHITE FLAG

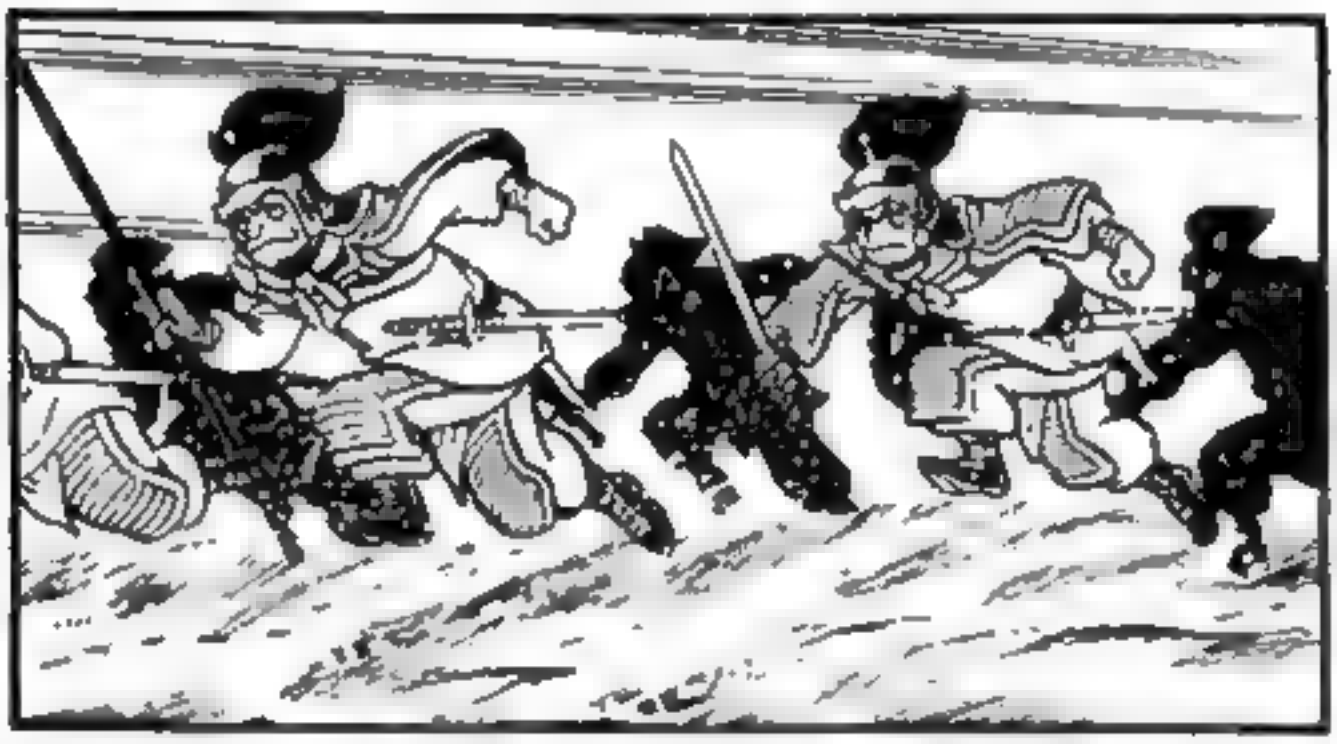
THANK YOU, SIR.

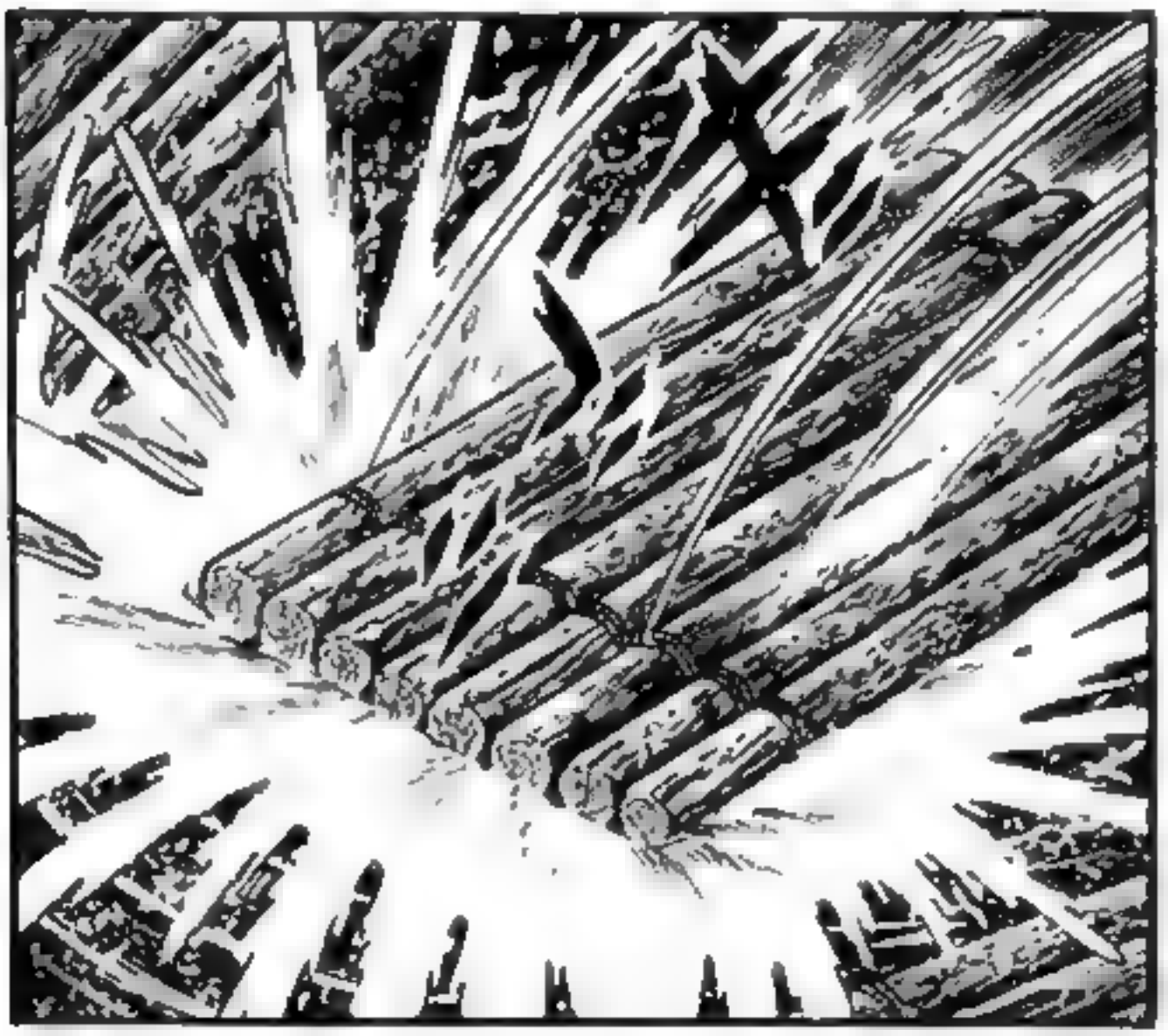
ALRIGHT, I SHALL ACCEPT YOU THREE GLADLY.

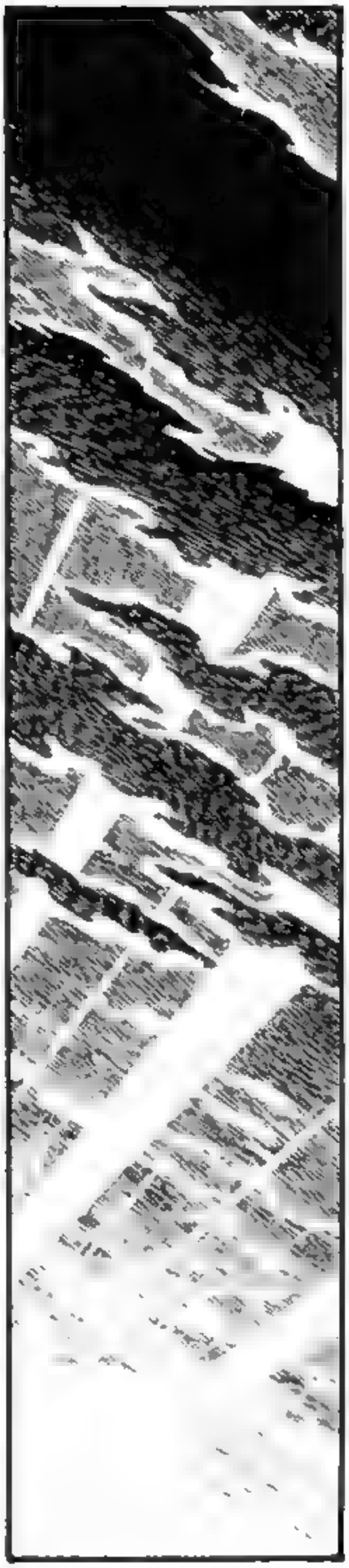
PREPARE TO LAUNCH A FULL-OUT ATTACK TOMORROW!

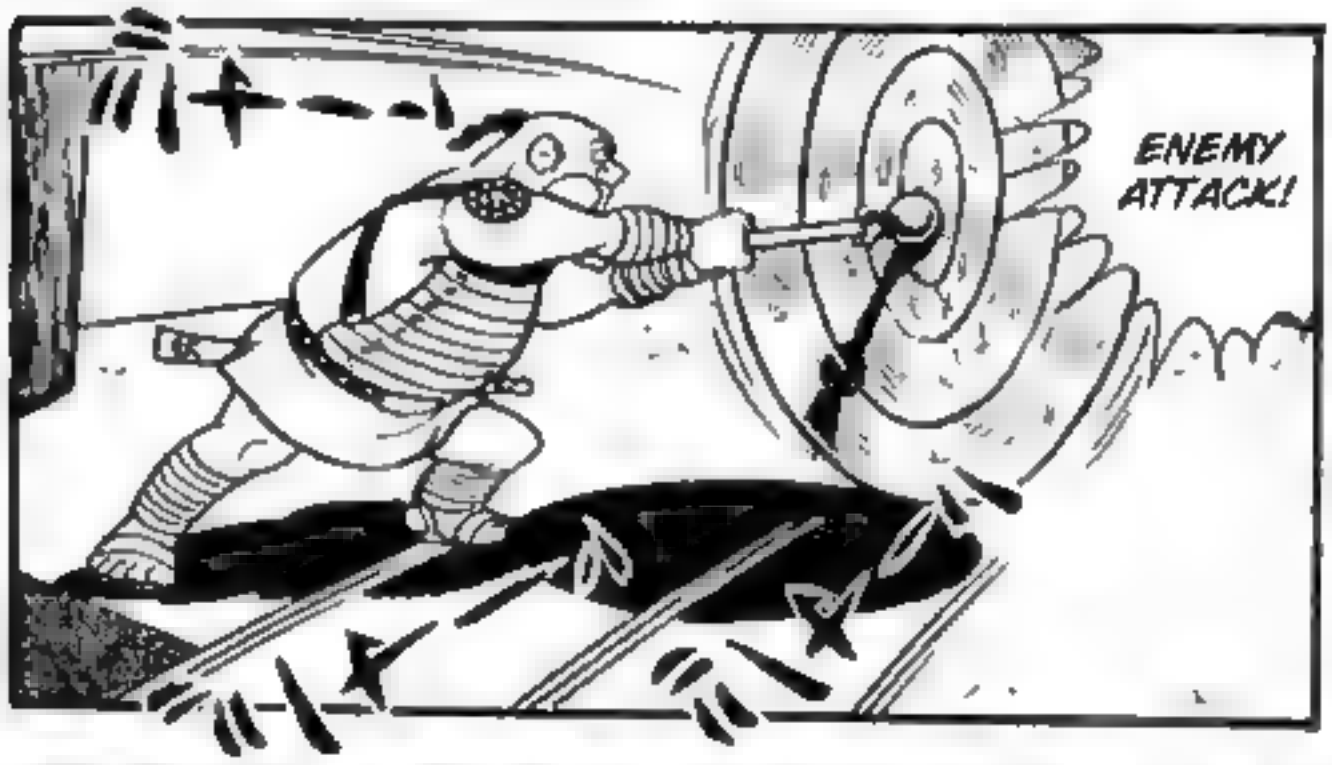
HAHA... YES, I AM GLAD THAT I LISTENED TO THE WISE ADVICE OF YOU MEN.

MY LORD, IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE WON THIS GAME OF ENDURANCE.

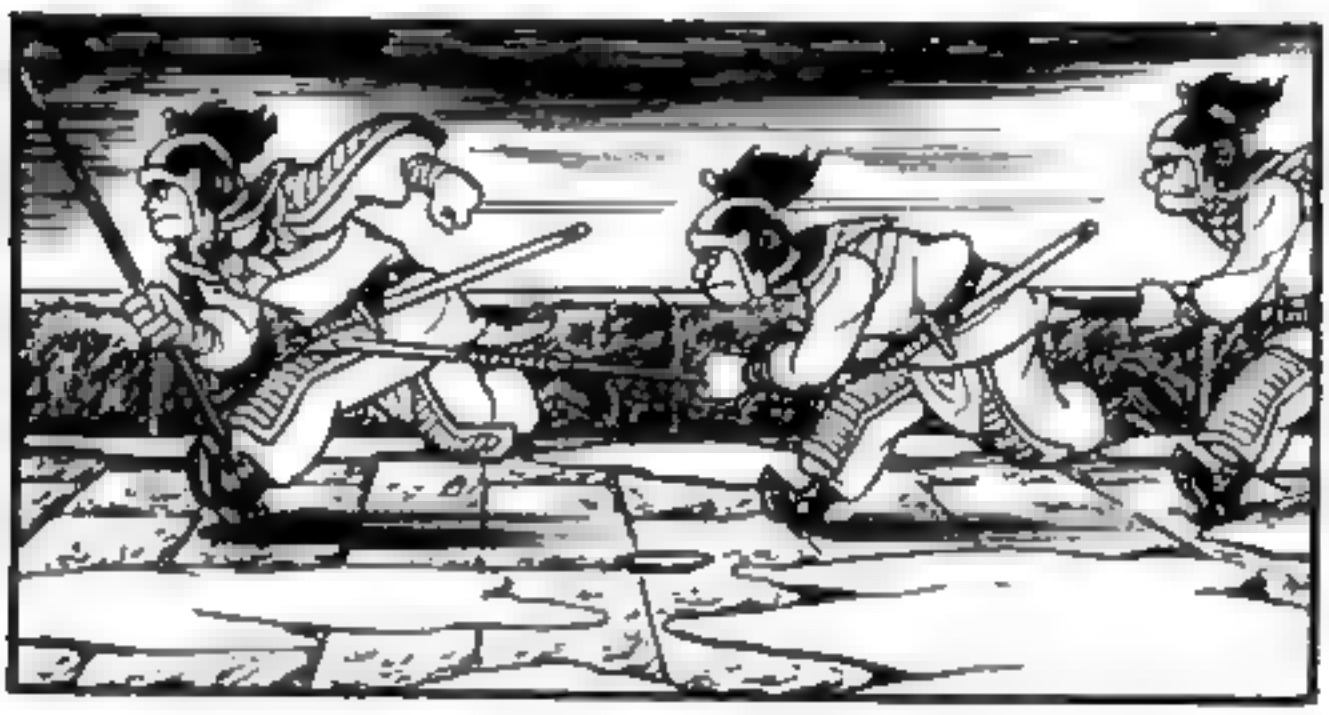


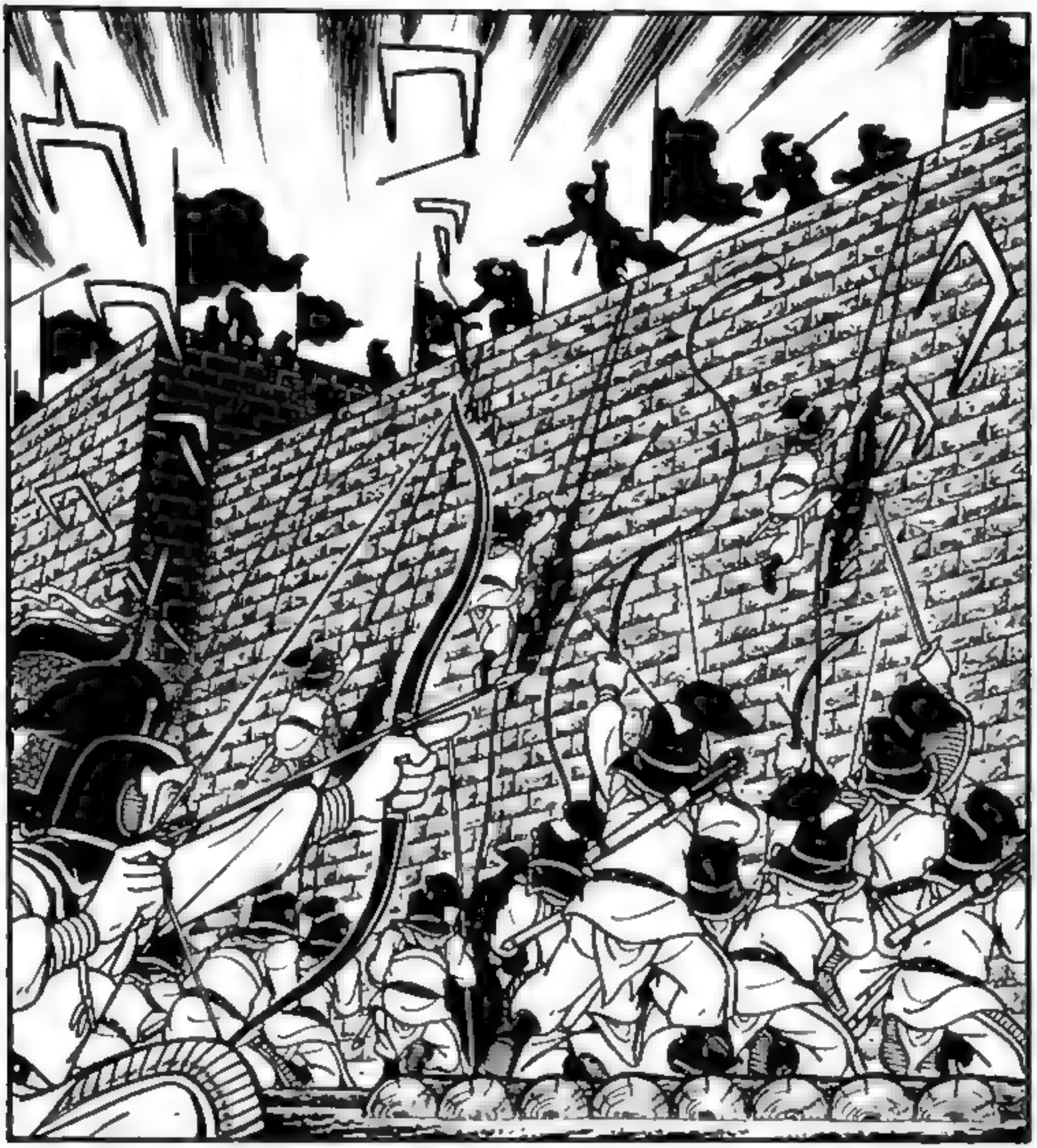





ENEMY ATTACK!

THE ENEMIES ARE ATTACKING!



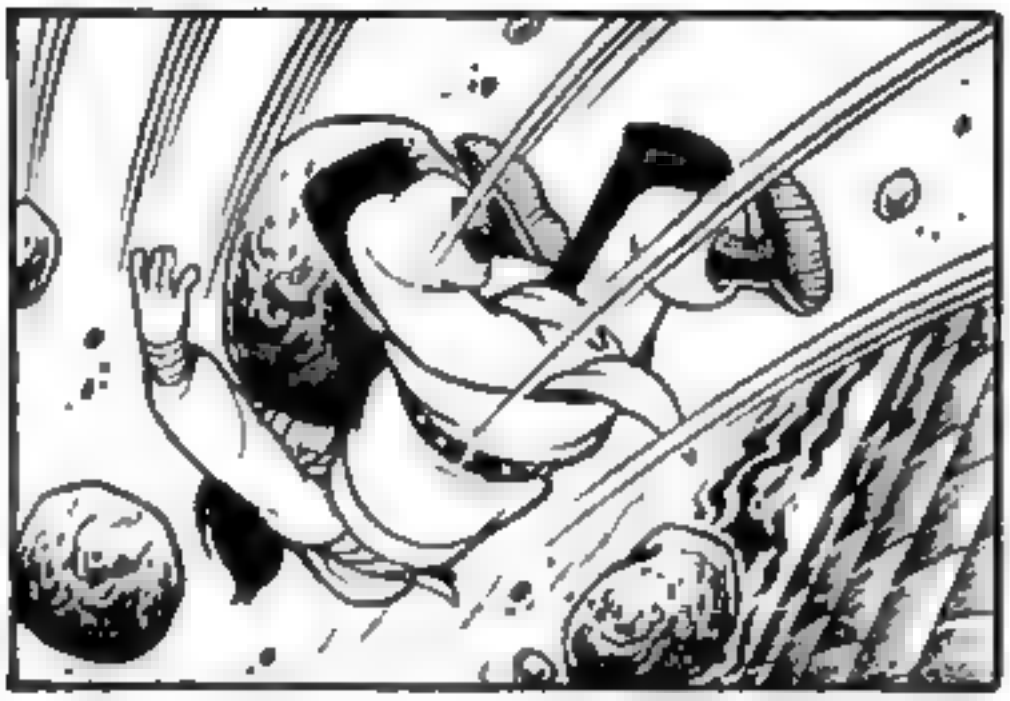


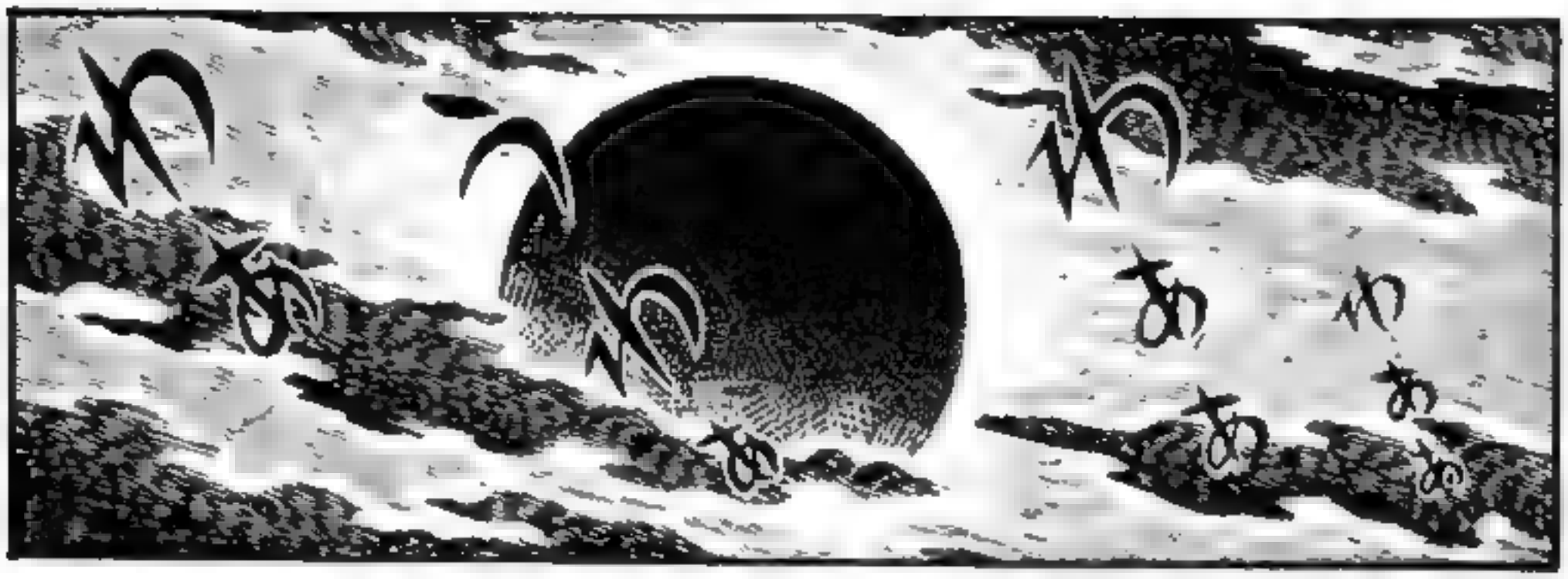
DON'T PANIC, WE CAN STILL HOLD THEM OFF INDEFINITELY.

WHAT!?

SIR! THE ENEMIES HAVE LAUNCHED A FULL-SCALE OFFENSIVE!

AHHH!

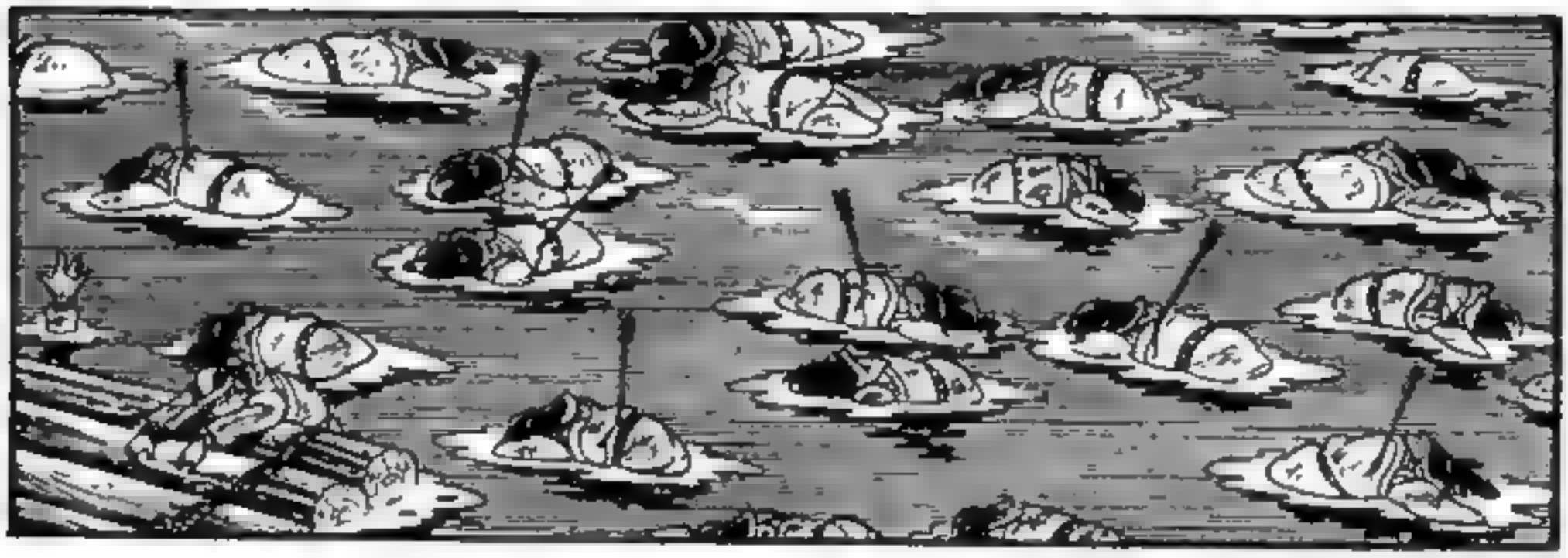




BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SCALE THESE WALLS JUST YET.

HMM...
THE ENEMIES ARE MORE PERSISTENT THAN USUAL, SIR.

JUST LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF THEIR CASUALTIES!



AH, I KNOW THAT SIR HAS BEEN FIGHTING SINCE MORNING AND HAS YET TO HAVE A SINGLE MEAL. IT'D BE BEST IF SIR WENT INSIDE TO EAT AND TAKE A BRIEF REST RIGHT NOW.

YES, SIR.

AT THIS RATE, WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

THEN I SHALL GO AND TAKE A SHORT RESPITE.

YES, SIR.

HAHA, YES, EXACTLY.

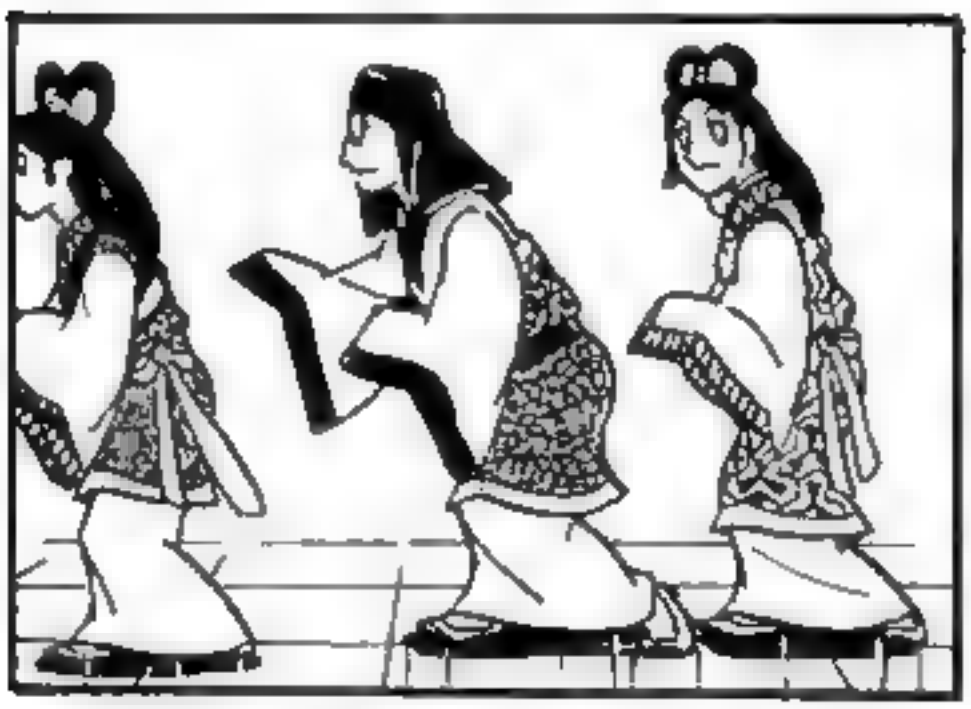
WE'LL EASILY BE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE ENEMY'S PATHETIC ATTEMPT AT A SIEGE EVEN WITHOUT SIR.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

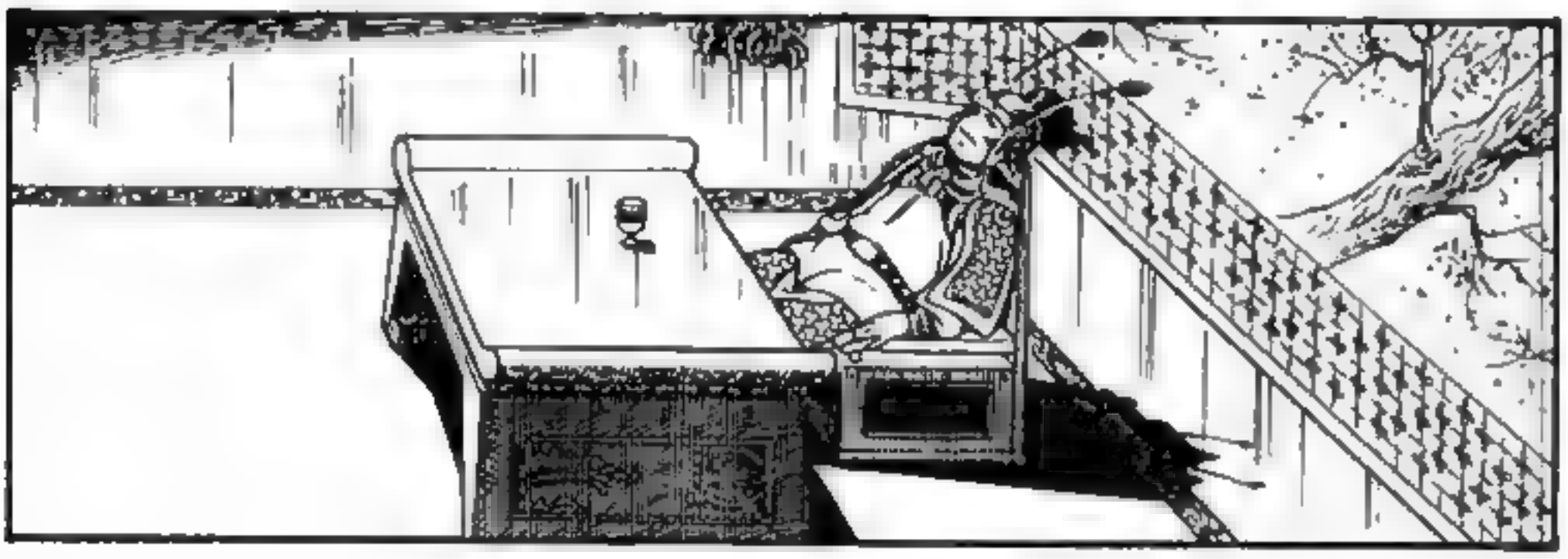
BRING ME MY MEAL.

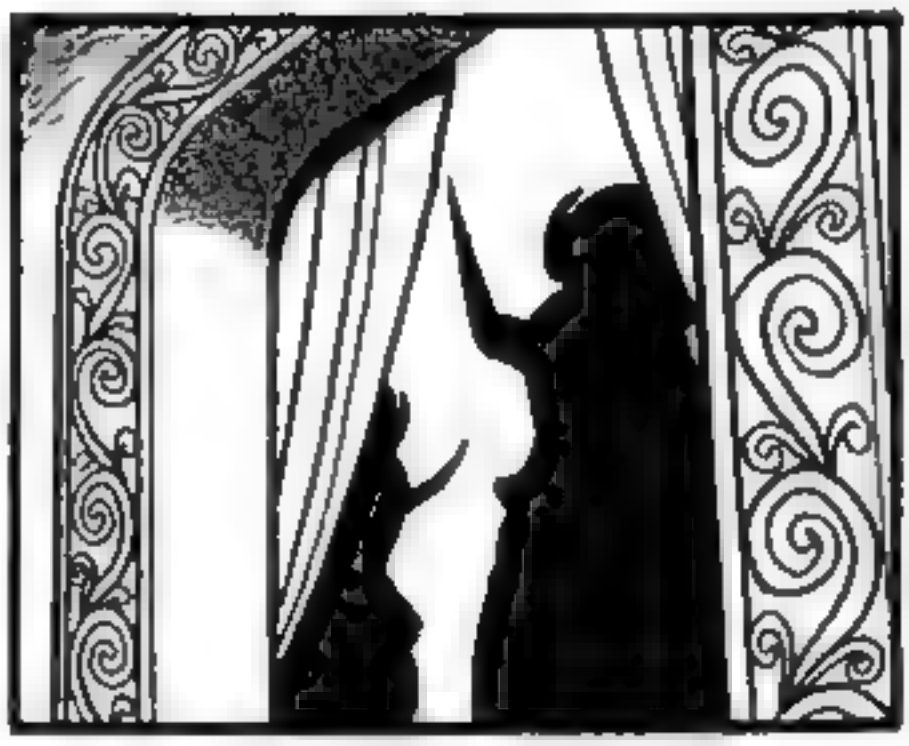
GULP

I'LL BE TAKING A SHORT NAP BUT JUST REPORT TO ME AT ONCE IF ANYTH NG HAPPENS.

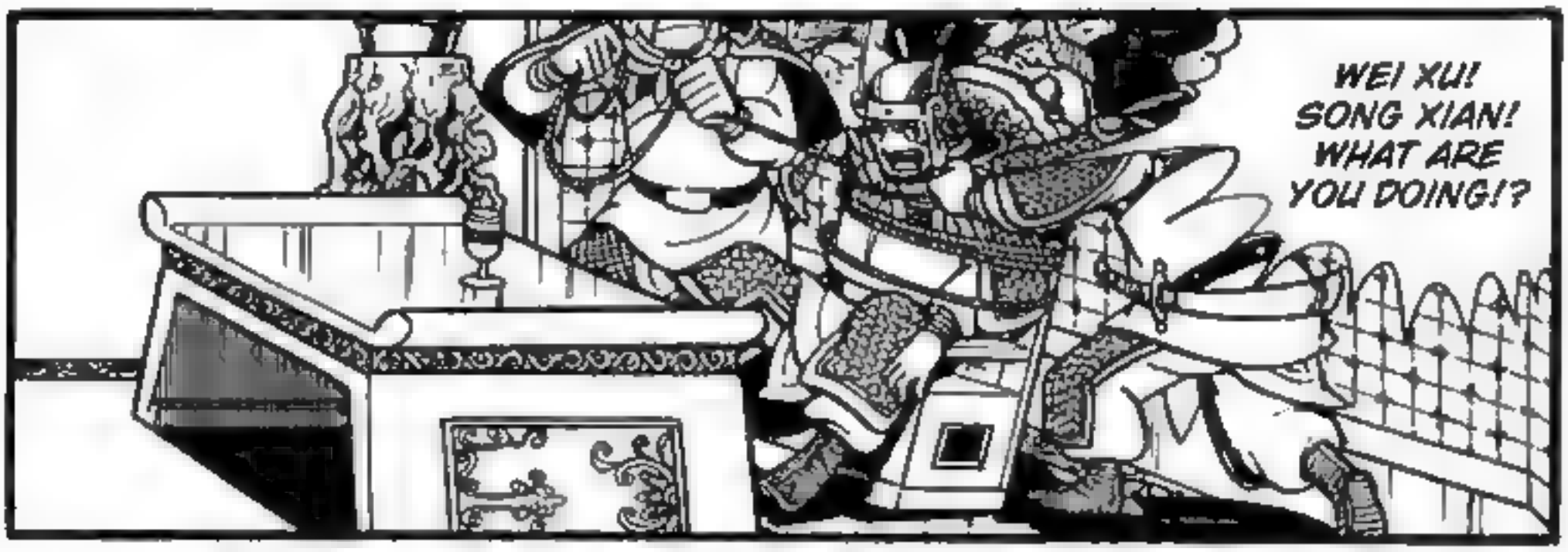


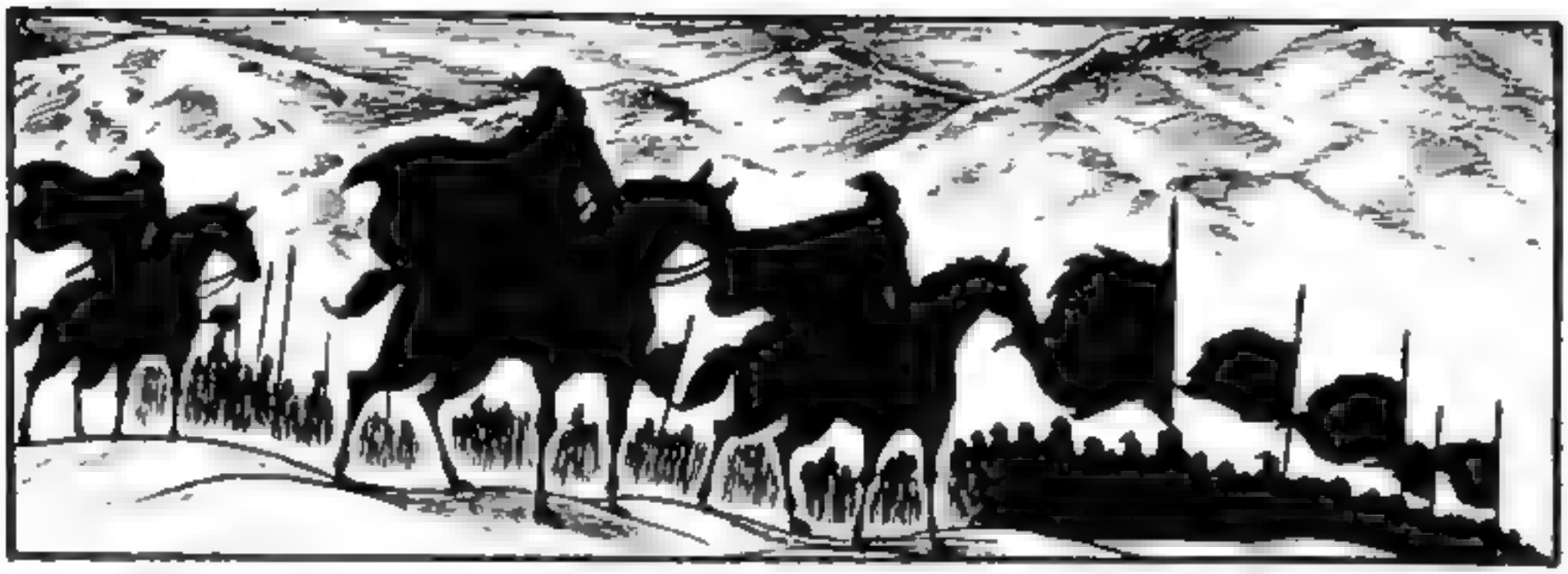
OUR LORD SEEMS TO BE EXHAUSTED FROM FIGHTING SINCE MORNING. LET US ALL CLEAR THE ROOM SO HE MAY REST PEACEFULLY





HMM?


WEI XU!
SONG XIAN!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING!?

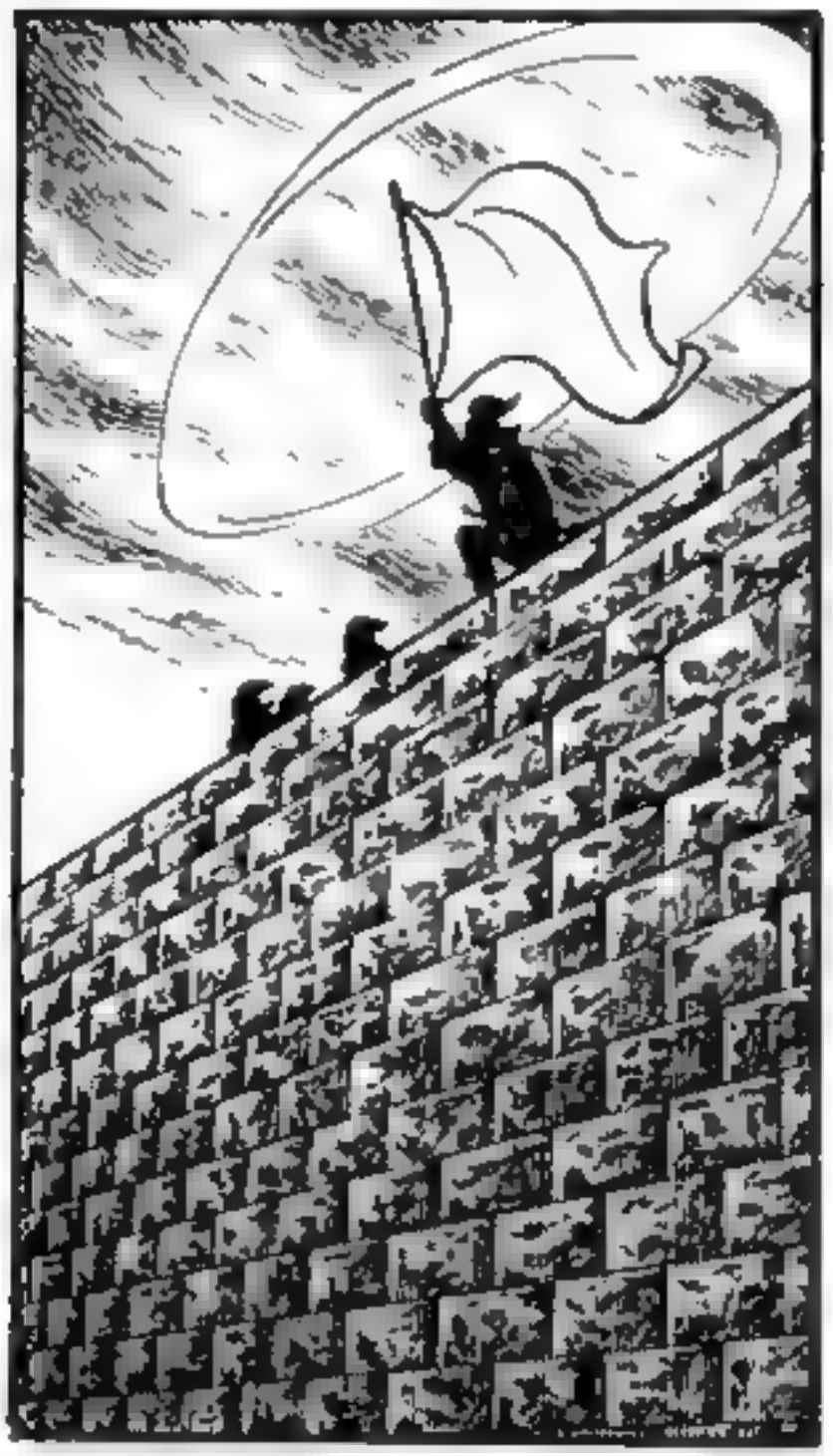


HOU CHENG COULDN'T HAVE BEEN... LURING US INTO A TRAP, COULD HE NOW?

MY LORD, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASUAL-TIES TODAY FOR OUR SIDE.

IT'S THE WHITE FLAG!

AH!



GOOD.

YES, LET US CALMLY ASSESS THE SITUATION FIRST.

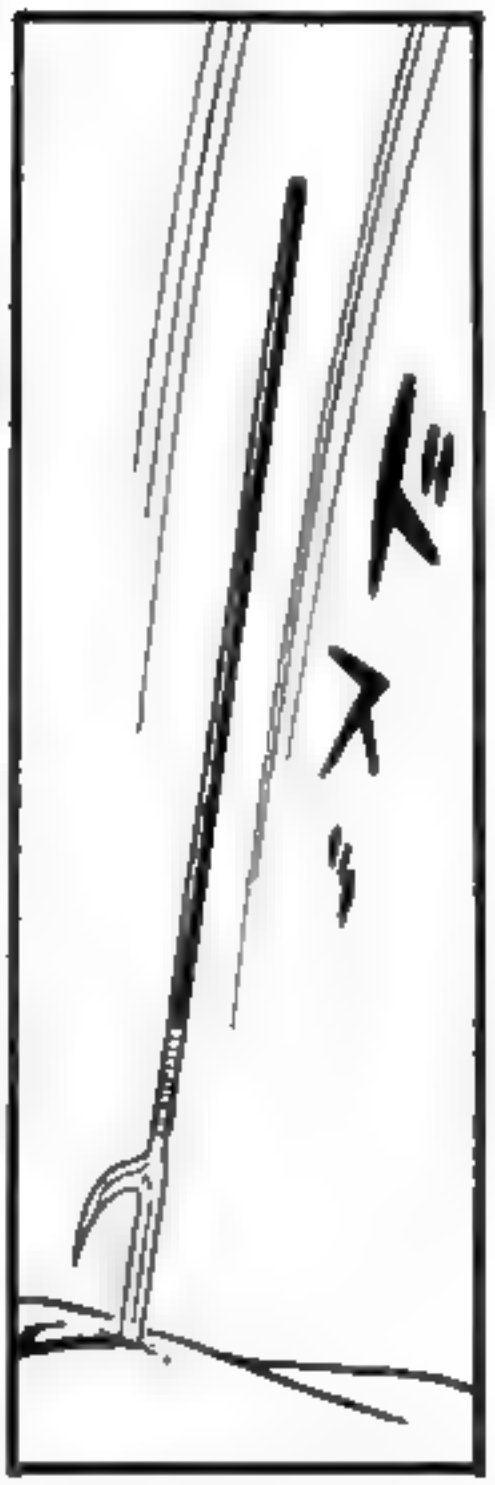
MY LORD, WE MUST NOT RUSH IN TOO QUICKLY. IF THIS HAPPENS TO BE AN ENEMY TRAP, THEN...

HE MAY BE DISTRUSTING US.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

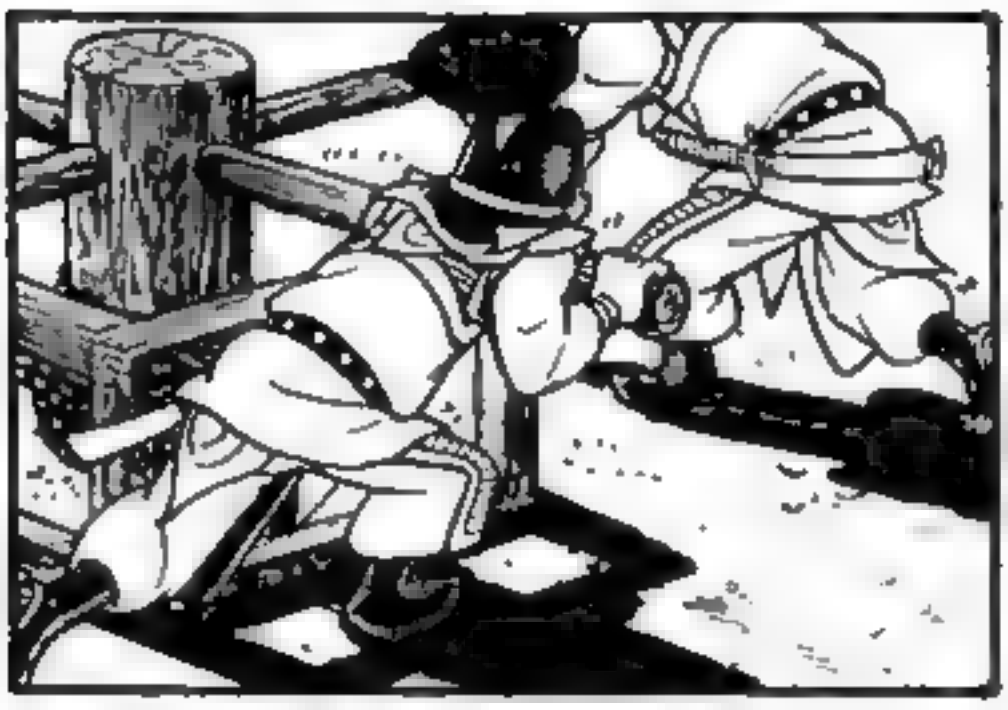
HEY, CAO CAO'S FORCES AREN'T BUDGING AT ALL!

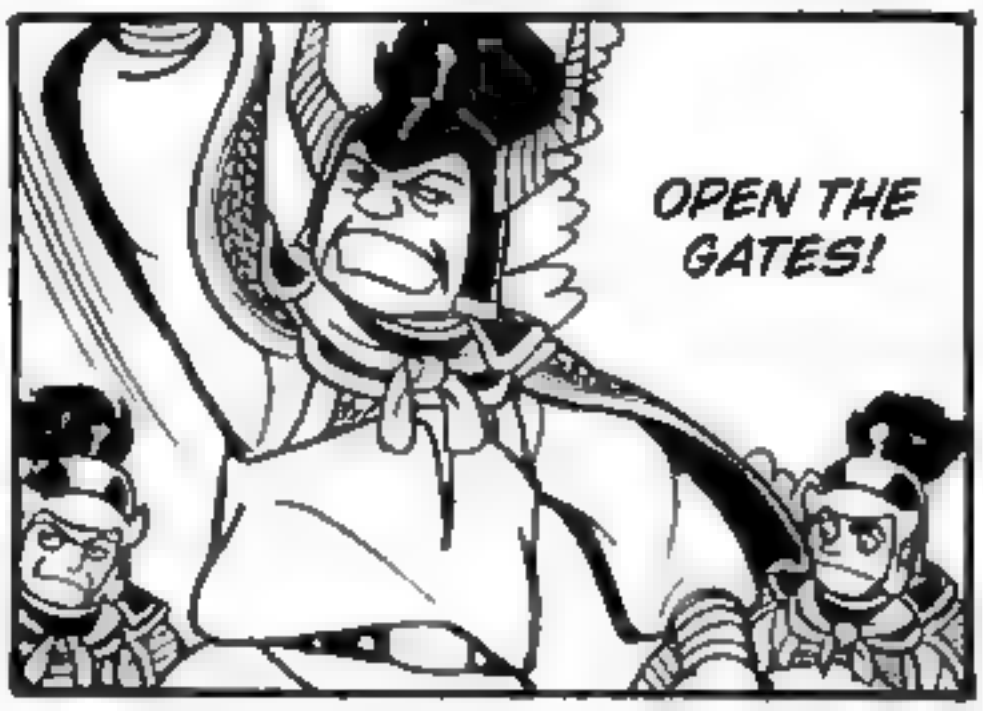
THEN THROW LU BU'S SPEAR OUTSIDE AS PROOF!

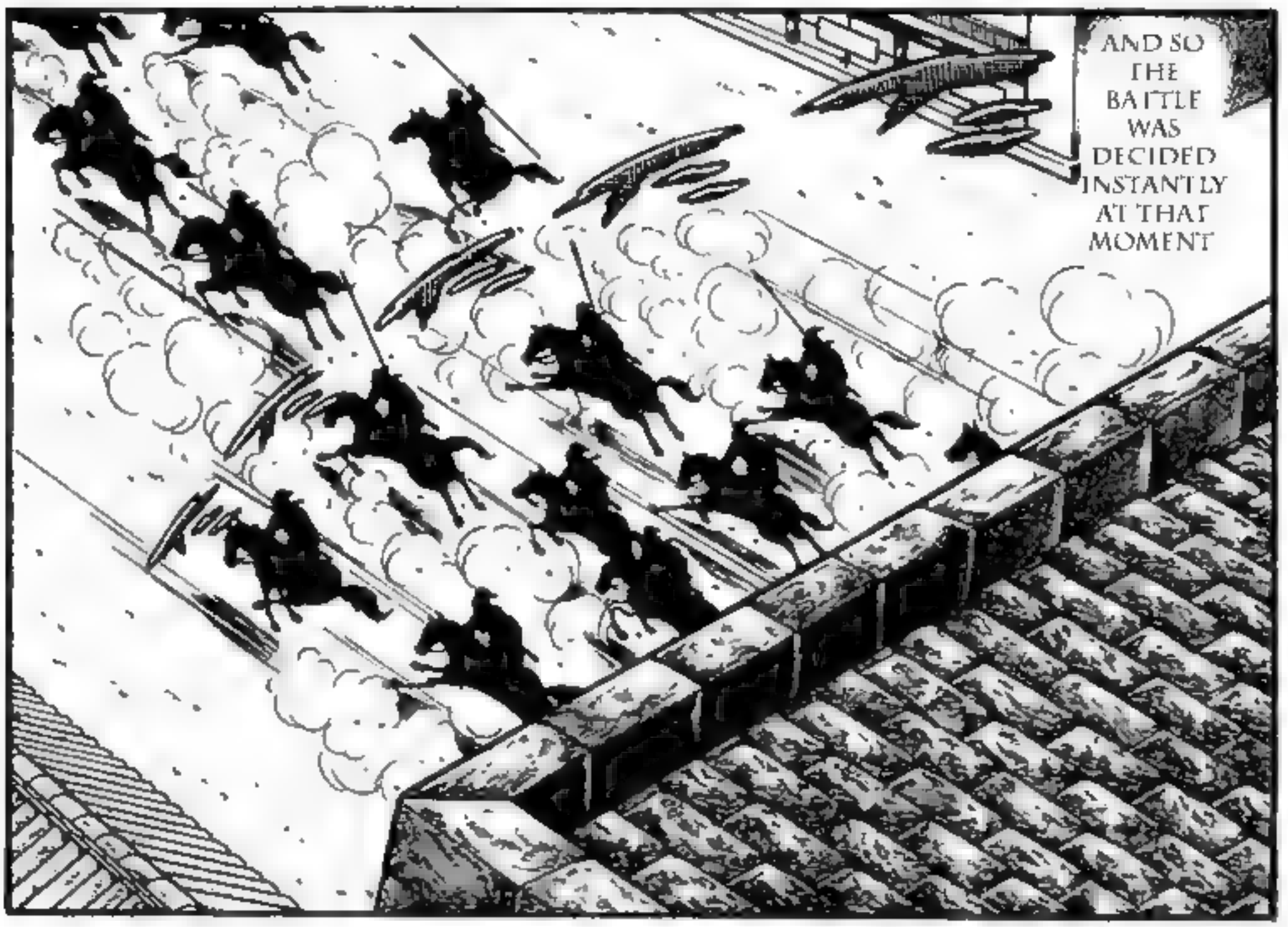

ゴゴゴ

MY LORD!
THIS IS
UNMISTAKABLY
LU BU'S
SPEAR!

ALRIGHT, CHARGE!



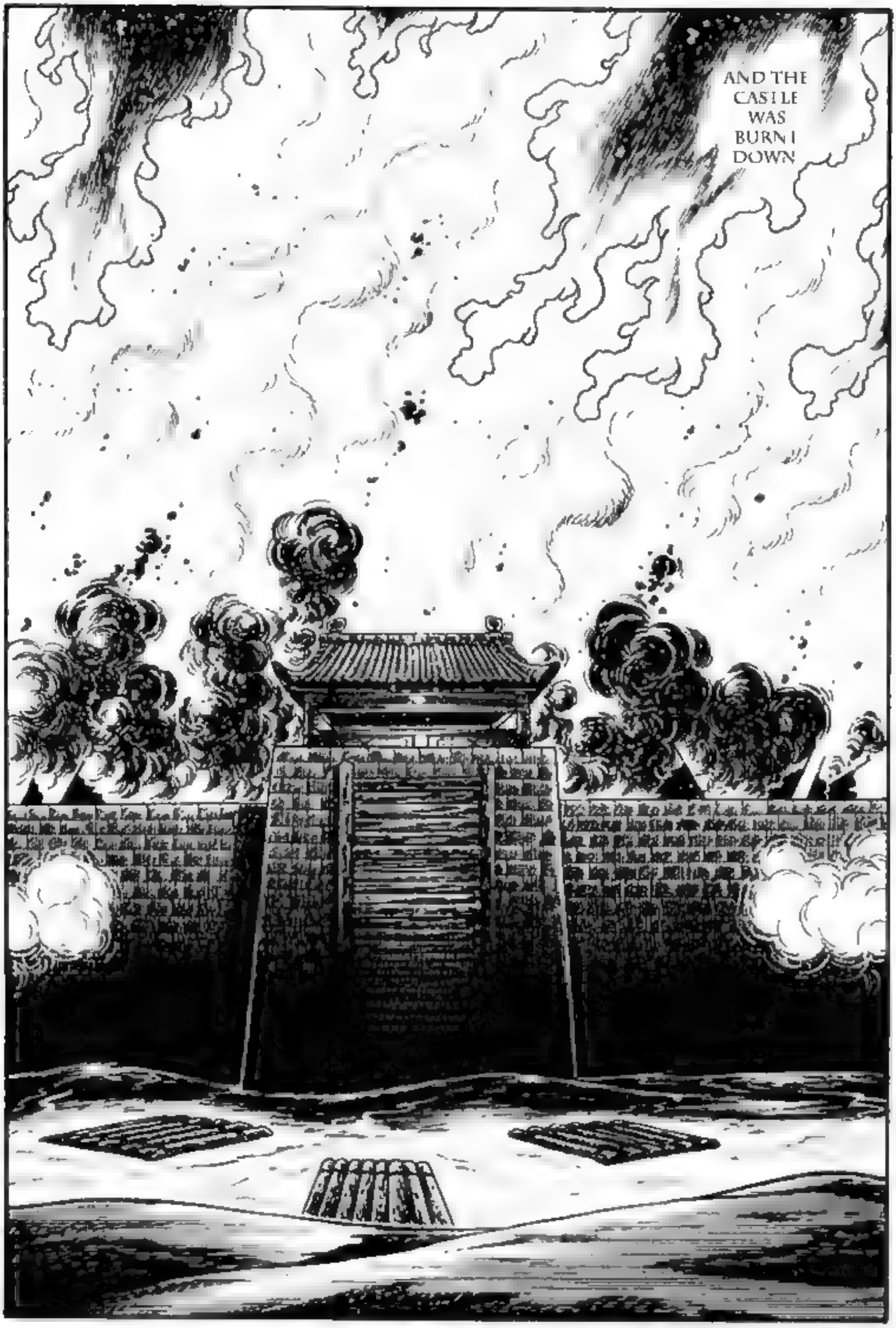

OPEN THE GATES!


AND SO THE BATTLE WAS DECIDED INSTANTLY AT THAT MOMENT

LU BU'S ARMY WAS NOT ONLY ATTACKED BY CAO CAO'S FORCES,

BUT BY THE SUBORDINATES OF GENERALS HOU CHENG, WEI XU, AND SONG XIAN AS WELL.

THE CASTLE OF XIAPI WAS TURNED INTO A BLOODBATH.


AND THE
CASTLE
WAS
BURNT
DOWN

DAMN THEM...

YOU TWO-FACED BASTARDS! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OF MY KINDNESS!?

THOUGH I REMEMBER THOSE 100 LASHES YOU GAVE ME, I DO NOT RECALL MYSELF EVER RECEIVING ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE ME BE IN YOUR DEBT.

IF YOU ARE ANGRY, WHY NOT GO COMPLAIN TO YOUR WIFE AND CONCUBINES? AFTER ALL, YOU DID NOT BOTHER TO LISTEN TO ANY OF YOUR MEN'S ADVICE.

CAO CAO! WHAT SAY YOU TO ME BECOMING YOUR SUBORDINATE!?

NGHH...

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT MY USEFULNESS AS A WARRIOR HAS NOT YET EXPIRED!

BUT SIR MUST NOT FORGET OF HOW LU BU HAS BETRAYED HIS FOSTER FATHER DING YUAN TO JOIN DONG ZHUO, ONLY TO LATER ASSASSINATE DONG ZHUO AS WELL.

THAT IS UP TO SIR'S DECISION, OF COURSE.

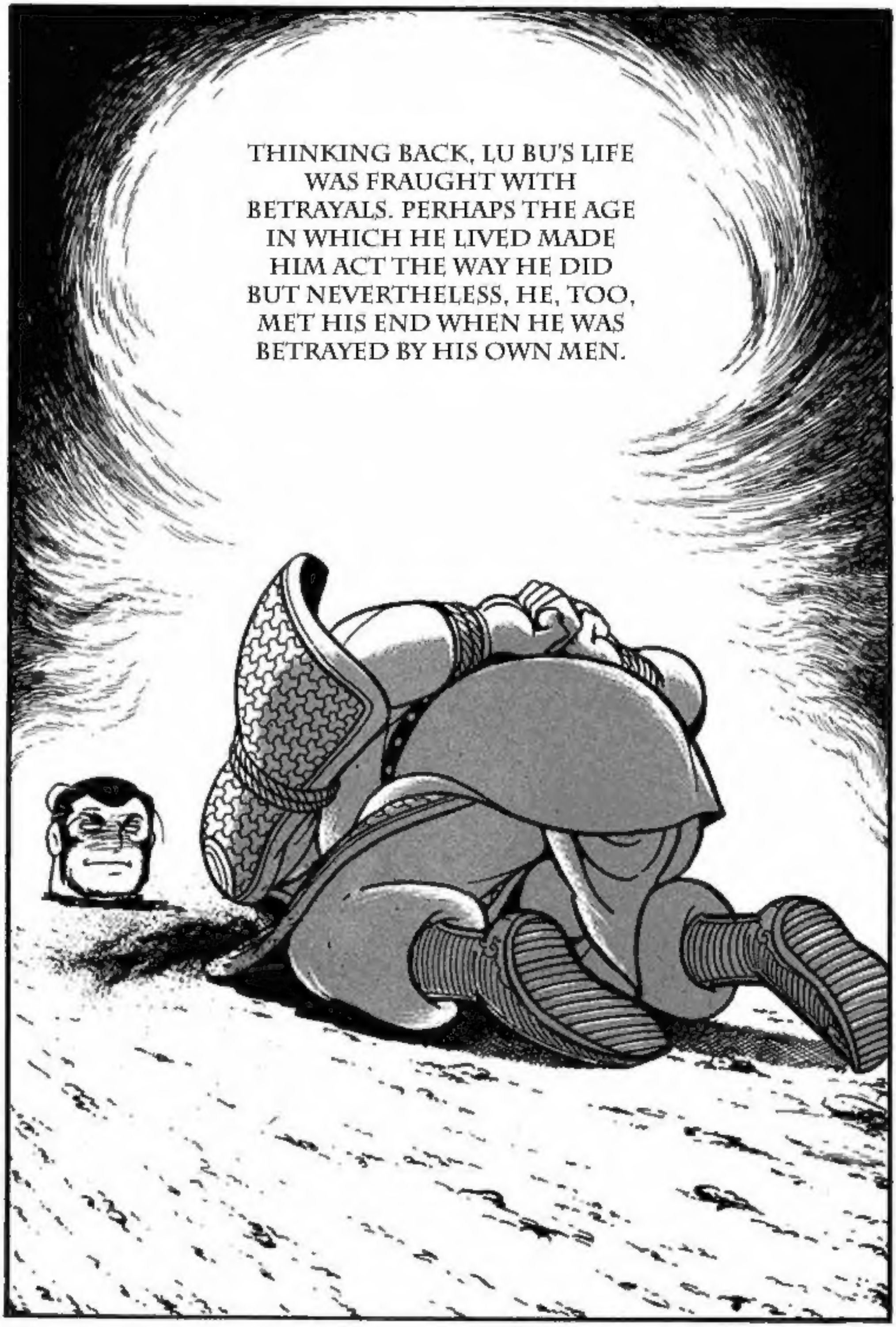
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIU BEI?

FINE, I HAVE DECIDED. CARRY OUT LU BU'S EXECUTION!

DAMN...!

KILL HIM!

AND THUS ENDED THE TUMULTUOUS LIFE OF THE MIGHTY WARRIOR, LU BU.


THINKING BACK, LU BU'S LIFE WAS FRAUGHT WITH BETRAYALS. PERHAPS THE AGE IN WHICH HE LIVED MADE HIM ACT THE WAY HE DID BUT NEVERTHELESS, HE, TOO, MET HIS END WHEN HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS OWN MEN.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

三国志

14

横山 光輝

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